BOE's Atalig: Some schools not ready to open Oct. 5. PAGE 2
Falling fuel prices result in FAC decrease in October. PAGE 3

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THURSDAY OCTOBER 1, 2020
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Hafa Adai!

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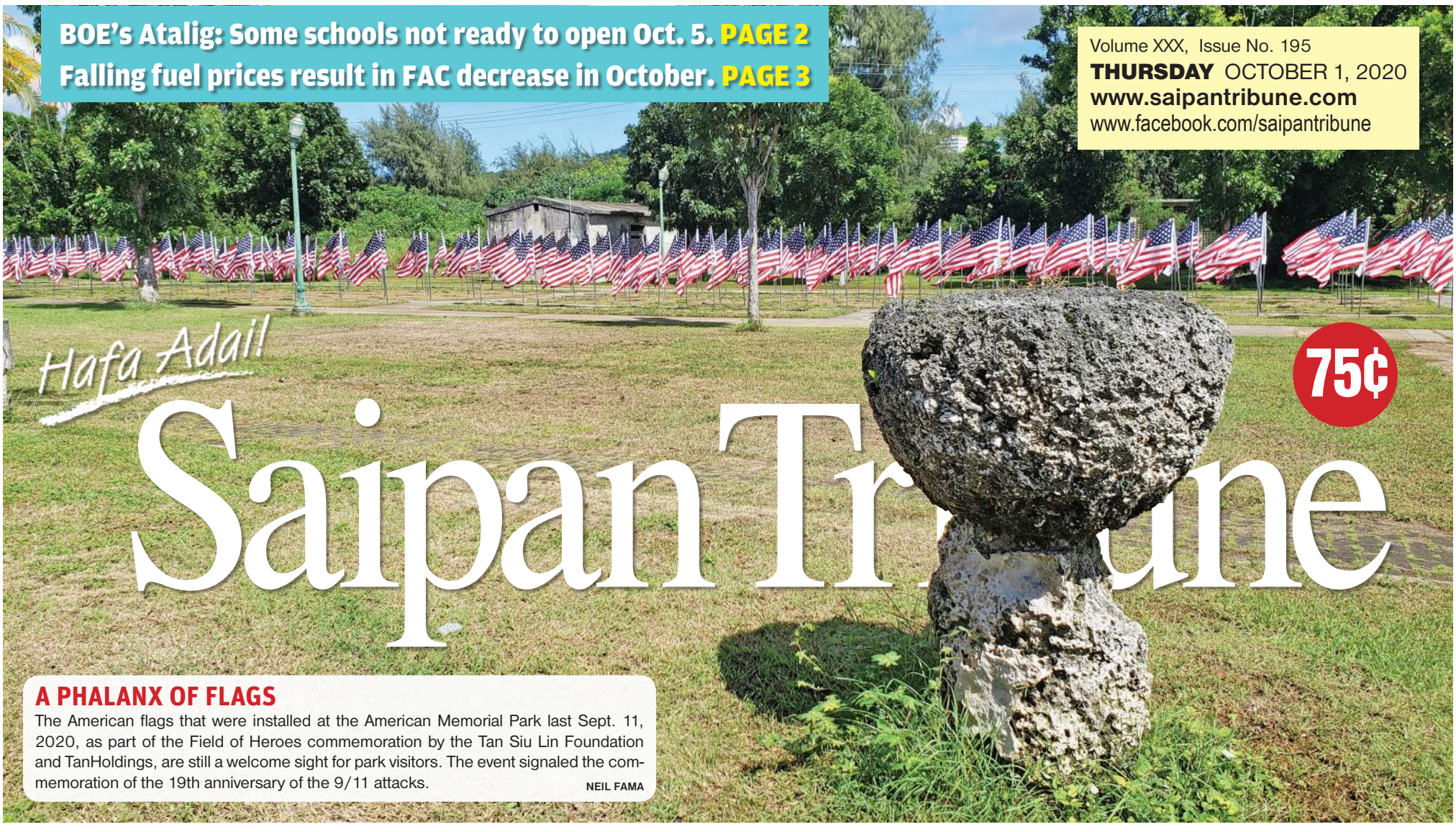
Saipan Tribune



A PHALANX OF FLAGS
The American flags that were installed at the American Memorial Park last Sept. 11, 2020, as part of the Field of Heroes commemoration by the Tan Siu Lin Foundation and TanHoldings, are still a welcome sight for park visitors. The event signaled the commemoration of the 19th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks. NEIL FAMA

No to more time for CW applications

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) said yesterday that he has received word from U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service that the agency will not give more time for filing applications for CW-1 workers as fiscal year 2020 ends today, Oct. 1.

This confirm an earlier statement by the Saipan Chamber of Commerce in its newsletter where it expressed belief that USCIS will likely not grant an extension for employers to file I-129 petitions for aliens

See CW on Page 4

Two more coronavirus-related deaths in Guam

By JUSTINE NAUTA
justine_nauta@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Guam reported two more COVID-19-related deaths when a man and a woman—both 61 years old and known

See DEATHS on Page 4

COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

LEGEND:
Red: Least safe
Orange
Yellow
Blue
Green: Safest

Source: Office of the Governor

AT A GLANCE

As of 6pm, Sept. 30, 2020

GUAM	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	2,390	53	2,443
Recovered	1,795	16	1,811
Active	534	53	587
Deaths	46	2	48
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested			49,905

SAIPAN	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	70	0	70
Deaths	2	0	2
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested			19,345*

*Total count includes the number of persons tested on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. With guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, CHCC has opted not to report active and recovered cases. The community-based testing has been temporarily suspended.

Source: Joint Information Center - Guam, Commonwealth Health Care Corp.

Babauta

Former DPS exec Babauta likely to replace Propst

FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

With the resignation of Rep. Edwin K. Propst (D-Saipan) as a member of the House of Representatives, Franklin Reyes Babauta, a retired official of the Department of Public Safety, will likely be given the chance to serve Precinct 1 and the Commonwealth for over three months as a lawmaker.

House Speaker Blas Jonathan T. Attao (R-Saipan) said in an interview Tuesday that, under the CNMI Constitution, vacancies in the Legislature have to be filled by the appointment of the unsuccessful candidate

See FORMER on Page 4

Ex-IPI employees rally in front of CCC

» IPI has yet to pay $3M regulatory fee due today

FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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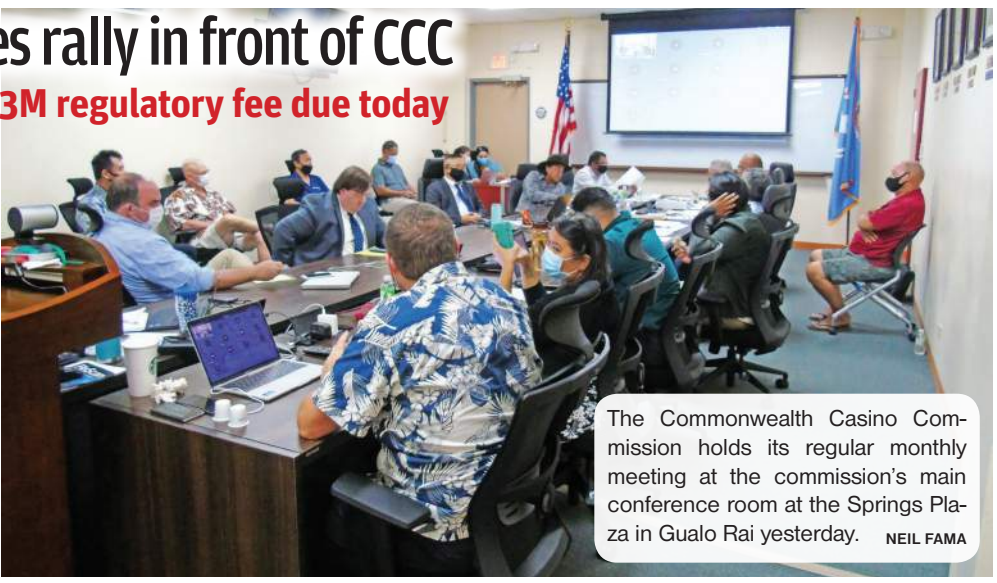
REPORTER

About 40 former employees of Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC held a protest rally against IPI yesterday in front of the Commonwealth Casino Commission's office at Springs Plaza in Gualo Rai, where the CCC commissioners held a monthly meeting.

The former workers were

See EX-IPI on Page 4



The Commonwealth Casino Commission holds its regular monthly meeting at the commission's main conference room at the Springs Plaza in Gualo Rai yesterday. NEIL FAMA

INSIDE

BUSINESS
Beginning this weekend, Saipan World Resort is bringing back the Wave Jungle and The Buffet World.

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NATION
The debate between President Donald Trump and Joe Biden deteriorates into a bitter showdown.

PAGE 12

WORLD
The pandemic's death toll has eclipsed 1 million, according to a count by Johns Hopkins University.

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GOT A NEWS TIP? TEL: 235-6397 / 235-2440 FAX: 235-3740 EMAIL: editor@saipantribune.com

Local

BOE's Atalig: Some schools not ready to open Oct. 5

By JUSTINE NAUTA
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REPORTER

With the Public School System getting ready for the reopening of face-to-face classes in four days, Board of Education vice chair Herman Atalig said some public school campuses are not ready.

Atalig, who is also the chairman of the BOE Committee on Capital Improvement Projects, said at the BOE board meeting on Tuesday that he visited schools and has deemed them not ready and not in compliance with the government's executive order on COVID-19 safety measures.

One of the biggest problems among some schools is having to comply with the 6-foot social distancing rule, Atalig said, adding that it's PSS' job to ensure that students are safe, and that schools are protected from any potential liability.

BOE member Andrew Orsini suggested delaying the opening of some schools that aren't ready yet, but also going ahead with opening schools that are in full compliance with the COVID-19 safety measures.

Orsini believes that transitioning from remote learning to face-to-face instruction will create a lot of mixed emotions, hence it's best to be aware of which schools are not ready to open yet, that each school principal take the lead in making that decision whether they're ready to go with face-to-face instruction, that there are even teachers who are spending their own money to provide essentials like hand sanitizers and masks. Orsini stated that schools who aren't ready should be able to hold back and open later when they're ready to open.

Orsini said that classroom instruction is always good when everything is in place, but if things aren't and a school falls short on some safety measures, there's going to be problems, which is something that he suggests the BOE should avoid.

PSS is set to welcome students back to campuses on Oct. 5 but each classroom will only have 10 or fewer students.

A Motorcade Hosted by NMCADSV as part of Domestic Violence Awareness Month
DRIVING OUT DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
Saturday, October 10th
8:00am - Registration Opens
9:00am - Motorcade Kicks Off
Outside Marianas Resort in Marpi
TO REGISTER:
Access the registration form by scanning the QR code with your phone camera or visiting:
https://tinyurl.com/yygmjr5e
FREE t-shirt for first 200 people to register.
#DVAM 2020
FOR MORE INFO:
Please contact NMCADSV at 234-3878 or email info@EndViolenceNMI.org.
@EndViolenceNMI

2 inmates ask for protective order vs some law enforcers

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

Two federal inmates have asked for protective orders from the U.S. District Court for the NMI against law enforcers in various agencies, afraid that these law enforcers might retaliate against them.

Edwin P. Blas and Francisco N. Basa, who are serving prison time in Guam, have asked the District Court for the NMI for a protective order in case of potential retaliation from defendants they named in their lawsuit for allegedly violating their constitutional rights.

Blas and Basa both submitted handwritten complaints naming U.S Marshals Service Saipan's Don Hall and Alfred Celis, CNMI Department of Corrections officials Georgia Cabrera, Jose K. Pangelinan, Maria Aldan, Raymond Mafnas, Vince Attao, an unnamed senator, and an unnamed food service contractor as defendants.

The inmates stated in their complaint that because they're housed in a correctional facility, they are more vulnerable to harm in the hands of the defendants—either mentally, emotionally or physically.

"They have access to our medications, food that is served by a catering contractor, and access to our cell rooms at all times," they wrote.

Basa and Blas accused the U.S. Marshals of having a history of retaliations against prisoners in the Federal Bureau of Prisons.

Basa and Blas are also accusing the defendants of violating their rights and privileges under the U.S. Constitution.

Basa and Blas are suing the defendants for alleged negligence and intentional infliction of emotional distress. The lawsuit alleged violations of the plaintiffs' First, Fifth, Eighth, and 14th amendment rights, and is demanding damages. Additionally, Basa and Blas also want to be allowed to complete their prison sentences on Saipan.

According to the two, the defendants have deprived them of access to a law library and voluntary religious programs. They also said that they do not have access to adequate health care and proper institution conditions. They said they have no adequate participation in education, vocational training, and employment programs. They said they were also deprived of nutritious meals, and provided no opportunities to open a bank and or savings account to assist their families financially.

Basa was sentenced to four years and six months in prison in 2006 for conspiracy to distribute 50 grams of methamphetamine. Blas was imprisoned after violating his probation when he punched his wife while he was drunk.

Cepeda is NMC board chair

Charles V. Cepeda, the Northern Mariana College's Board of Regents chairman, has been voted to stay on for another term as board chair.

At the board's meeting Tuesday, all members voted in favor of Cepeda continuing his term. Also, all members kept their positions: Elaine H. Orilla, vice chairperson; Michaela U. Sanchez, treasurer; and Zenie P. Mafnas, Jesus M. Tudela, Irene T. Torres, and Michelle Sablan as regents.

The position of vice chairperson and treasurer were up for grabs but all members were in favor of sticking to the status quo.

Torres and Sablan were both recently appointed as regents; Sablan is a newly appointed member. In a previous interview, NMC interim president Frankie Eliptico said that Sablan being a local entrepreneur who has years of private sector experience and a passion for developing young leaders will be important as NMC continues to ramp up its workforce development efforts and its growth.

Sablan has been active and involved in community programs such as the NMI Girl Scouts, Stellar Marianas, and other organizations. Sablan is also the owner of Peña House Boutique and Salon in Chalan Kanoa.

Torres, on the other hand, has been on the NMC board since 2016 and this would be her second term.

In the past, Torres has also worked at NMC. ***(Justine Nauta)***

Falling fuel prices result in FAC decrease in October

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. announced yesterday that the Fuel Adjustment Charge will decrease to $0.11165 per kilowatt-hour effective today, Oct. 1, 2020.

CUC was notified by Mobil Oil Mariana Islands, Inc. that there has been a decrease in the average international fuel prices, which will affect the FAC. As a result, the current FAC rate of $0.12397 per kWh will decrease to $0.11165 per kWh.

The FAC is one of two components that make up the CUC electric kWh rate, which is used to purchase fuel. The second component is the CUC base rate, which is used to fund operations, projects, and debt service. This base rate has not been increased since April 17, 2014.

CUC is required, pursuant to an order previously issued by the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission, to adjust (up or down) the FAC pass-through rate when the Mean of Platts Singapore monthly pricing equals or exceeds a 4.5% differential of the average per gallon cost of fuel used in the calculation of the current FAC rate.

CUC first instituted the Levelized Energy Adjustment Clause in 2009 to recover fuel and fuel related costs, a system also used by power providers in Guam and the Virgin Islands. In May 2015, the CPUC authorized CUC to change the name of LEAC to FAC to provide customers a more accurate description of the electric rate.

Although the FAC rate will decrease, CUC encourages its consumers to still practice energy conservation. ***(PR)***

Flags return to full-staff today

All U.S. and Commonwealth flags across the CNMI will return to full staff today, Oct, 1, 2020, 12 days after being lowered to half-staff to honor the passing of the life and memory of Associate Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg.

In a notice from the Office of the Governor yesterday, it said that they have been notified that Ginsburg has officially been buried beside her husband at Arlington Cemetery in Washington, D.C.

Ginsburg

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres issued the proclamation to lower all CNMI and U.S. flags in the Commonwealth soon after Ginsburg passed away, with Torres directing that the flags be kept at half-staff until Ginsburg's burial.

In his earlier proclamation, Torres described Ginsburg as a trailblazer, "not only within the law profession, but in the history of the United States, and for women everywhere.

"In her 27 years as an associate justice on our country's highest court, she demonstrated powerful and respectful arguments that brought about greater equality for women and the disabled. She was a fighter to the very end, conducting her duties on the Supreme Court with class while battling cancer. She serves as an inspiration and role model for women everywhere, and her legacy to our laws and our country will never be forgotten.

"As a mark of respect for the life and service of… Ginsburg…President Donald J. Trump ordered that the flag of the United States be flown at half-staff immediately at all public buildings and grounds, at all military posts and naval stations, and on all naval vessels of the federal government in the District of Columbia and throughout the United States and its territories and possessions until sunset, on the day of interment." ***(Saipan Tribune)***

Power outage today

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. would like to inform the public that there will be a scheduled power interruption today, Oct. 1, 2020, for portions of Sadog Tasi, Puerto Rico, and Lower Navy Hill.

As CUC continues its ongoing system maintenance, there will be a scheduled power interruption to de-energize utility lines such that CUC linemen are able to safely connect a new Air Brake Switch System tie-switch for Feeder 1 and 2 to allow CUC field staff the flexibility of switching/re-routing the feeders when making necessary repairs/maintenance to the power system.

Because of the scale of work that will be performed, CUC asks travelers to take alternate routes or to exercise caution when driving through the working area.

■ Thursday, Oct. 1, 2020 — 9am to 10am

❖ Outage type: Sectionalized outage on the Feeder 1 Circuit (1st Partial)

❖ Project location: Near the Kaiser Cement Factory in Puerto Rico

❖ Power service area(s) affected: Northern Side of Sadog Tasi, Puerto Rico, Lower Navy Hill, CUC Water & Wastewater Office and the Northern Sadog Tasi area of the CUC Sewer Treatment System

❖ Traffic Light Affected: Puerto Rico (near the Marina Heights Building)

❖ Water well(s) affected: None

❖ Wastewater lift station(s) affected: None

■ Thursday, Oct. 1, 2020 — 2pm to 3pm

❖ Outage type: Sectionalized outage on the Feeder 2 Circuit (1st Partial)

❖ Project location: Near the Kaiser Cement Factory in Puerto Rico

❖ Power service area(s) affected: CPA Seaport, DPS Boating Safety, Shell & Mobil Transfer Stations, Division of Customs (Seaport), Saipan Shipping Company, Inc. and the Division of Fish & Wildlife

❖ Traffic Light Affected: Puerto Rico (near the Marina Heights Building)

❖ Water well(s) affected: None

❖ Wastewater lift station(s) affected: None

For more information, contact the CUC hotline (236-4333) or monitor our Facebook page for the latest updates (https://www.facebook.com/CommonwellthUtilitiesCorporation/). ***(PR)***

CONGRESSMAN
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Congressman Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan may nominate constituents to the
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U.S. Military Academy
U.S. Air Force Academy
U.S. Naval Academy
Eligibility: U.S. citizen, unmarried with no dependents, age 17-23, high school senior or graduate, strong academic record, and ability to pass a physical fitness test.
To access the nomination application or for more information, visit sablan.house.gov or call 670-323-2647/8 on Saipan, 433-2647 on Tinian, or 532-2647 on Rota.
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*2019 FRONTIER KING CAB 4X2 OFFER EXPIRES OCTOBER 30, 2020 OR WHILE SUPPLIES LAST.

Conference committee still ironing out budget bill

FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Members of the Legislature's bicameral conference committee resumed discussions yesterday to resolve their disagreements in the budget bill for fiscal year 2021 but, as of 6:30pm last night, no compromise was in sight just yet.

A source said the conferees are hoping to resolve issues and pass the budget at 8pm last night to avoid a partial government shutdown.

The Legislature has to pass the budget by the end of the fiscal year, which was yesterday, Sept. 30. If not, the CNMI government will have to shut down, except for essential services like the hospital and police.

After holding talks Tuesday until almost 11pm, members of the conference committee led by Senate vice president Jude U. Hofschneider (R-Tinian) and Rep. Ivan A. Blanco (R-Saipan) agreed to meet again at 9:30am yesterday.

At 5pm, both the Senate and House called for an emergency session. The back-to-back sessions, however, did not push through and was set again for another one at 8pm last night because there was no "product" yet from the conference committee.

A source said the remaining issue as of 6pm was the proposed allocations for Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

"The conference committee wants to give it another shot and hopefully have a product at 8pm," the source said.

In the proposed Senate version, Blanco earlier pointed out, there was an increase $1.8 million for Tinian and $1.3 million for Rota. Saipan was increased too but, instead of a similar amount, the island received an increase of only $247,000.

In the House version that the House passed last Aug. 5, the representatives took the $82 million that the governor identified as the net total available for appropriation and they stayed within that figure.

Besides Hofschneider, the other members in the Senate team are Sens. Vinnie F. Sablan (R-Saipan) and Teresita A. Santos (Ind-Rota). Sen. Francisco Q. Cruz (R-Tinian) is an alternate member.

The members in the House team are Blanco, floor leader Rep. John Paul Sablan (R-Saipan), and Rep. Joseph Lee Pan Guerrero (R-Saipan). Rep. Joel C. Camacho (R-Saipan) is an alternate.

The conference committee was established after the House rejected the Senate's version of the budget bill with an 18-2 vote during Sunday's special session.

Last Saturday, the Senate passed its version in the budget bill that proposes $96.47 million in available revenue and resources for appropriation for FY 2021.

The Senate's version is $13.81 million more than what the House had adopted in the amount of $82.65 million.

FORMER

From Page 1

in a previous election.

Attao said that, if he is not mistaken, it's Babauta. That is, if he chooses to accept it.

Babauta, who ran as an independent candidate, landed seventh place in the 2018 election for Precinct 1, where there were six House positions for grabs.

Babauta's wife, Celina, is a known critic of the administration and is running for House Precinct 1 this coming Nov. 3 elections.

The speaker said if Babauta does not accept, the next highest voter will be appointed to serve the remaining term.

Propst's resignation will take effect today, Thursday. His term was supposed to end on Jan. 11, 2021.

Attao said a lawmaker's resignation is unprecedented and that it happened only once in the CNMI's history back in the 17th Legislature when then-representative Diego Benavente resigned.

"So that's the most recent history. I don't remember or I cannot find another case of a member from this body that had resigned during their term," he said.

Attao said Benavente turned in his resignation to then House speaker Eli Cabrera.

By virtue of the constitution, more than half of the term was left and the unsuccessful candidate of the sixth seat in Precinct 1 at the time was the person who was appointed, Attao said.

"And that's the constitutional language. That's how the Constitution is written," the speaker said.

Then-governor Eloy Inos appointed Rep. Janet U. Maratita (R-Saipan) to the 17th Legislature in 2011, replacing Benavente who resigned on June 30, 2011, after serving the Legislature for more than 15 years. Benavente served as lieutenant governor from 2002 to 2006 to then-governor Juan N. Babauta.

Attao said that, as in every other job, the boss would either accept the resignation or reject it.

"The position of elected officials is very unique because your application is to the people, your constituents, they placed you into office," he said.

Regarding Propst's resignation Monday, Attao said he was saddened, but not disappointed when he received the resignation letter Monday afternoon.

Attao said that, just like to any member in the Legislature, he respects Propst and that he cannot tell him what to do or what not to do.

The speaker said if that's their choice, he is not going to try to influence them one way or the other.

Attao said it's clear in Propst's message that he took the time to talk to his family and friends to come to this conclusion.

"I always respect anybody's decision. It's sad. It's hard but only he knows why he is resigning," he said.

Propst stepped down from his job Monday, saying that he has reached his limits due to an extremely stressful job, the attacks on his name, and cyber bullying.

CW

From Page 1

to work under the Commonwealth-Only Transitional (CW-1) visa.

The Chamber said that, as of Tuesday morning, they have not received news of a USCIS extension to file I-29 petitions and a confirmation of an approved prevailing wage survey.

The Chamber said they also have not received responses to their letter to Sablan and Gov. Ralph DLG Torres asking for their support in requesting U.S. Labor to prioritize processing Temporary Labor Certifications and asking USCIS to grant an extension for I-129 similar to that of other recently announced visas.

The Chamber, however, stated that they are aware that both Sablan's and Torres' office have inquired and followed up with the respective departments but neither USCIS nor U.S. Labor have responded to their inquiries.

The Chamber said if an individual employer is unable to file their CW-1 petitions on time, USCIS has advised that the employer may be able to request an individual extension, if the delay is caused by an extraordinary circumstance beyond their control, such as reasons that may be caused by COVID-19.

The Chamber said U.S. Labor has been pushing out some of the TLCs that were submitted in August, so the turnaround has been a bit faster than it was last month.

In his statement yesterday, Sablan said he had had requested the extension for employers to submit CW applications in light of disruptions caused by the coronavirus and the late submission of a prevailing wage survey by the Commonwealth government. But the Trump administration said no, he said yesterday.

"I wish the governor and his [Washington, D.C.] lobbyist could have influenced the Trump administration decision," Sablan said.

Last year, Sablan did successfully convince USCIS to provide extra time for employers to submit CW applications. Sablan's U.S. Workforce Act was just coming into effect, which requires the U.S. Labor Department to certify no U.S. worker is available for a job before an employer may petition for a CW worker. Both employers and U.S. Labor needed extra time to process this new legal requirement.

The U.S. Workforce Act also protects U.S. workers' wages by specifying CW workers have to be paid at least the prevailing wage. The Commonwealth government had prevailing wage rates for 84 occupations approved by May last year. This year the Commonwealth did not complete submission of its prevailing wage survey to U.S. Labor until Sept. 10, delaying the application process.

Sablan said the congressional office cannot provide legal advice to employers or workers. On a case-by-case basis, however, the congressional office can make sure constituents have access to all pertinent information that may help them decide their next steps now that the Trump administration has closed the door on a blanket extension.

A reliable source has said, though, that the U.S. Department of Labor has already approved the CNMI's prevailing wage survey results but this could not be independently verified as of press time and there has been no official word about this yet. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

DEATHS

From Page 1

COVID-19 positive cases—passed away yesterday and last Tuesday. The Guam government also announced that it will be giving $10,000 in assistance to families who have lost a loved one due to COVID-19.

A statement from Guam's Joint Information Center said that Guam Gov. Lou Leon Guerrero has issued a new executive order that extends the public health emergency on the island for another month and will provide $10,000 to eligible families of those whose deaths were linked to COVID-19.

According to JIC, the purpose of the COVID-19 Bereavement Assistance Fund is to assist the families of individuals who have died due to COVID-19 or COVID-19-related complications. This one-time grant is worth $10,000 per decedent.

Guerrero stated that losing a family member under any circumstances can be "very difficult." "These families are already grieving, and they should not have to worry about covering costs in their time of mourning," she said.

Though the program is still in development, Leon Guerrero said that they need to do what they can to help those who are impacted by COVID-19. She said this program is meant to ease the unexpected financial burden that families have to endure.

"This program is meant to ease the unexpected financial burden placed on families who are scrambling for the resources necessary to bury their loved ones," said Leon Guerrero.

Guam deaths

The JIC statement said that it was notified that Guam's 47th COVID-19-related fatality occurred at the Guam Regional Medical City at approximately 2:35pm last Tuesday. The 61-year-old female was admitted to GRMC last Sept. 29 and was a known positive case.

Guam's 48th COVID-19-related fatality—a 61-year-old man who had underlying health conditions that were intensified by COVID-19—was reported yesterday. He was admitted to the Guam Memorial Hospital last Sept. 15 after testing positive for COVID-19 at a private clinic. GMH pronounced him deceased at approximately 10:53am.

"[First gentleman] Jeff [Cook], Lt. Gov. Josh [Tenorio], and I express our deepest condolences. Though this loss can feel immeasurable, I hope that you find comfort and peace from those around you," said Leon Guerrero.

She said it is difficult to deal with so much death in so few weeks, that all of Guam mourn with these families and will do what is necessary to ensure these 48 individuals did not "pass in vain."

EX-IPI

From Page 1

protesting against IPI for allegedly not paying three-fourths of their wages as guaranteed in their contract and other issues. Twenty Turkish, 10 Italians, eight Filipinos, and two Malaysians took part in the peaceful demonstration.

Glenn Bell, an Australian who is the former project manager for the Italian workers, and Vicente Seman Aldan, a former IPI employee who is running for a House Precinct 1 position, were allowed to speak and voice their demands and concerns at the CCC meeting.

IPI vice president of Public Affairs Tao Xing, who was at the meeting, said that IPI has heard the concerns of the employees, and that IPI has been and continues to experience some challenges due to COVID-19. He said IPI is working with the CNMI government, the Legislature, and the Commonwealth Lottery Commission on a new framework for financial obligations.

"It will bring sustainability and clarity, which [will] enable funds to be released from financial institutions to IPI. With the new funds, many issues brought up today can be addressed. We appreciate everyone's patience and hardship," Xing said.

As of yesterday, IPI has yet to pay the $3-million casino regulatory fee that is due today, Thursday.

When asked if IPI can make the payment today, Xing only stated that the regulatory fee is part of a new proposal that IPI has submitted to CCC. He did not elaborate.

CCC chair Edward Deleon Guerrero said any non-payment of the regulatory fee by today would be a major violation of the casino license agreement, and that IPI's many violations are already "very frustrating."

Bell, who led the demonstrators, said the Turkish and Italian nationals were terminated from their jobs, while the Filipinos and Malaysians resigned. Bell said the terminations were made "on the spot" and without giving the workers notice. He said IPI owes the terminated workers unpaid wages, holiday pay, and other benefits.

Ariel Reyes, a Filipino who worked as a casino pit supervisor, said the Filipino workers have had no work since they were furloughed last March 17. Reyes said many of them resigned and most of them already went home without getting the guaranteed three-fourths payments. As for the rest who are still on island, Reyes said they are just waiting for the payment of the three-fourths guarantee because they want to go home.

In order to survive, they're just relying on relief goods and donations from the government and community, he said.

Reyes started working at IPI in 2015.

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SALE PRICE $17.99

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SALE PRICE 69¢

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DANDOUL
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CASIO
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Seabees build roads and relationships on Tinian

TINIAN—Seabees assigned to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 3, Detail Tinian began initial ground clearance efforts on Marpo Heights Road G improvement on Tinian last Sept. 24, 2020.

The Seabee construction and engineering project will improve and repair approximately one mile of road to meet U.S. Department of Transportation standards for roadway systems and improve access for emergency vehicles in and out of the nearby residential areas.

The Marpo Heights road improvement project is a part of Department of Defense Innovative Readiness Training. IRT missions are military training opportunities, exclusive to the U.S. and its territories, that deliver joint training opportunities to increase deployment readiness, while providing key services to local communities.

IRT missions leverage DoD unit core capabilities combined with local resource contributions to produce mission-ready forces, civil-military partnerships, and stronger communities. "The IRT roadway project presents an exciting opportunity for our Seabees to collaborate with [Tinian] Mayor Edwin Aldan and government of CNMI partners for critical infrastructure improvement," said Rear Adm. John Menoni, commander, Joint Region Marianas. "It allows our Seabees to simultaneously hone their construction proficiency through live training operations while directly improving quality of life for the residents of Tinian."

Multiple organizations united to meet the logistical challenges of shipping 55 pieces of civil engineering support equipment and $3.7 million worth of material to Tinian during a global pandemic. The expeditionary logistics expertise of the Seabees assigned to NMCBs 1, 3, 5, 11, 133 and 30th Naval Construction Regiment combined with support from Naval Facilities Engineering Command, the Island Knights of Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 25 and civilian contractors streamlined the endeavor, enabling the project to begin.

Seabee Divers assigned to Underwater Construction Team 2 Construction Dive Detachment ALFA, transit to the inspection site within the Tinian Harbor in a wing boat. UCT 2 is inspecting the Tinian Harbor and surrounding facilities during their 20-2 INDOPACOM deployment.

U.S. NAVY/MCS2 COLE C. PIELOP

"My crew is definitely exceeding my expectations. With the material and logistical challenges in this COVID-19 pandemic, my team has come up with innovative ways to keep the project moving forward," said Lt. j.g. Aaron Ignacio, assistant officer in charge and project manager of NMCB 3, Detail Tinian. "I'm confident with the small crew that we have was built out for this specific mission. It is an amazing opportunity for the team to not only help out, but also establish friendships with the locals here on Tinian, who have all welcomed us on the island with open arms."

The 10-man crew is slated to complete the 0.77-mile road in February 2021. The improved road will receive new pavement, curbs, storm drainage, and traffic signs and markings. The project is estimated to use 1,897 tons of asphalt, 9,299 cubic yards of base course and subbase course, along with 1,775 linear feet of storm drain system. These efforts will improve the training and readiness of the Seabees, improve roadway infrastructure for the local community and continue to strengthening the relationships between the CNMI and the DoD.

"Years of weather has washed away the existing road," said Equipment Operator 1st Class Eric Wingate, project supervisor for NMCB 3. "We've spent months and months planning for this job and we are excited to finally get started. There's going to be a lot of obstacles in this road, but we're going to take our time and do it the right way to give the locals the highest quality road we can."

The IRT project is one of multiple Seabee projects being carried out concurrently on Tinian. The Seabees of Underwater Construction Team 2 are conducting an above and below surface inspection of Tinian harbor and the surrounding facilities. NMCB 3 is also building expeditionary Camp Tinian that will support various military units as they conduct exercises and training events on Tinian. In addition, the Seabees are also carrying out multiple community outreach and service projects including beach cleanups and beautification efforts.

"I am very humbled to be a part of a major infrastructure project on an island that is rich in Seabee history," said Ignacio. "This is a very technical project that will give back to the local community, enhance our construction skills, and continue the 'Can-Do' legacy within the CNMI."

The Seabees have a long relationship with Tinian, most recently deploying to the island to perform Defense Support to Civil Authorities following Super Typhoon Yutu in 2018. The Seabees were a primary part of the DSCA efforts, which repaired 184 typhoon-damaged roofs, installed 196 temporary tents for families whose homes were damaged and unlivable immediately following the typhoon, produced more than 54,000 gallons of potable drinking water, cleared debris from 64 miles of road, and translocated 10,036 cubic yards of debris. NMCB 3 is deployed across the Indo-Pacific region conducting high-quality construction to support U.S. and partner nations to strengthen partnerships, deter aggression, and enable expeditionary logistics and naval power projection. The battalion stands ready to complete assigned tasking, support humanitarian aid/disaster relief and major combat operations throughout the 7th Fleet area of operations. ***(PR)***

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ATTORNEY FOR Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION, Plaintiff, -v- The Estate of JESUS TILIPAO TEREGEYO, Deceased, Defendant.	CIVIL ACTION NO. 17-0231 FIRST AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on July 16, 2020, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendant in and to the following property:

Legal description of the property:
Lot 011 G 1097, situated in Kagman III, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, as shown on the Division of Lands and Surveys Official Cadastral Plat no. 011 G 20 dated December 3, 1993, Commonwealth Recorder's File no. 93-4288, the description therein being incorporated herein by reference.

Total area of the property:
843 square meters, more or less

Known encumbrances:
None material

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, October 2, 2020, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The Sale will be open to the general public. Copies of a title insurance report for the properties are available to any prospective bidder upon request.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 21st day of September, 2020:

/s/ MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
EIGHT (8) ARFF ROLL UP DOORS REPLACEMENT

PROJECT NO. CPA-RFP-001-21

PROVIDE AND INSTALL SEAWATER FIREFIGHTING PUMP/MOTOR SYSTEM

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting sealed proposals (RFP), and other contract provisions, for proposals to provide and install a new seawater firefighting pump/motor assembly at the Port of Saipan. The Executive Director hereby determines that the use of an Invitation for Bid is neither practical nor advantageous to the CPA because the CPA wishes to acquire services and or products that cannot be evaluate by cost alone (NMIAC §40-50-225(a)).

All works shall take place at the Port of Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands.

The proposal package is available for pick-up beginning October 01, 2020, at the Executive Director's Office, Commonwealth Ports Authority, 2nd Floor, Arrival Building, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport. The proposer shall guarantee that all contents of their proposal be valid for a period of 60 days from the due date of proposals.

A Site Visit is encouraged in order for proposers to familiarize themselves of the type of equipment needed and to ensure that the project surrounding does not inconvenient the project requirement. Proposers are requested to contact Mr. Rodney James Taisacan at telephone numbers 664-3550 or 664-3552 during working hours from Monday to Thursday (Friday is austerity day).

Questions and/or clarification regarding this RFP shall be directed to: Alex C. Tudela, Procurement Officer by written notice or email at atudela@cpa.gov.mp before 2:00 p.m. October 19, 2020. All responses shall be in the form of written addenda which will be a requirement in the RFP submission.

Proposers are to submit one (1) original and two (2) copies of their proposal to the Office of the Executive Director no later than 4:00 P.M. (CHST) November 02, 2020.

The CPA reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this RFP; (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding proposal rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects of said proposals if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

/s/ CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: DPW20-ITB-024

SUBMISSION DATE: October 28, 2020 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"Supply and Delivery of a Tire Shredder for the Department of Public Works, Saipan"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE TECHNICAL SERVICES DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, LOCATED ON SECOND FLOOR, OLEAI JOETEN COMMERCIAL CENTER, SAN JOSE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

A non-refundable payment of Fifety Dollars **($50.00)** is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at DPW Technical Services Division required for each set.

There will be a **Pre-bid Conference** for this project on **October 14, 2020**, 9:00 a.m. local time at the Department of Public Works Conference Room 2nd Floor, Lower Base Transfer Station, Saipan. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All question regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on **October 21, 2020** to **Mr. Blas T. Mafnas, Acting Director of Solid Waste Management Division**, Lower Base, Saipan or fax to (670) 322-2726. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ PETER P. CAMACHO
ACTING SECRETARY, DPW

/S/FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR, P&S

COMMONWEALTH LOTTERY COMMISSION

PUBLIC NOTICE

A Special Meeting of the Commonwealth Lottery Commission will be held at 9 a.m. on Thursday, October 8, 2020, in the conference room at the Juan Sablan Memorial Building on Capitol Hill, Saipan. The public is invited to attend.

The following is the proposed agenda:

I. Call to Order
II. Roll Call/Determination of Quorum
III. Public Comment
IV. Adoption of Agenda
V. Adoption of Minutes
VI. Old Business
- A. Amendments to Casino License Agreement (#8)
  - 1. Live Training Facility
  - 2. Local Hiring Requirements

VII. New Business
- A. Amendments to Casino License Agreement (#9)
  - 1. Exclusive License
  - 2. Casino License Fees ($15.5M) Payment Plan
  - 3. Defer 2020 Community Benefit Fund
  - 4. Commonwealth Casino Commission (CCC) Authority over Hotel Construction and Operations vs. Gaming Operations
  - 5. P.L. 20-85 – Casino Bad Debt Collection
  - 6. Force Majeure triggers for License Fees in the future
  - 7. CCC Regulatory Fees – request for reduced amount.
  - 8. Online Gaming

VIII. Executive Session
IX. Adjournment

For further information, please contact the Lottery Commission by telephone through the Office of the Finance Secretary at 664-1100.

The Department of Community and Cultural Affairs' Child Care and Development Fund program has been approved a total of $1.6 million to address expenses directly related to Typhoon Mangkhut (2018), Super Typhoon Yutu (2018), Typhoon Hagibis (2019), and Typhoon Bualoi (2019).

Deadline extended for SCC scholarship

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce has extended its 2020 Scholarship Program application deadline to Wednesday, Oct. 7, at 11:59pm through its online portal at www.saipanchamber.com/scholarship-program.

The scholarship program is open to eligible students who are:

(a) 2020 High school graduates or currently on the first semester of college;

(b) Ongoing college students attending the Northern Marianas College; or

(c) Ongoing vocational education students (Northern Marianas Trades Institute).

All students who meet the criteria are encouraged to apply, to include high school graduates attending off-island institutions.

The Chamber recognizes that the cost of postsecondary education is substantial and, with the trying times caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, it is all the more important that we continue to promote and enable postsecondary education in our community through the support of local institutions, NMC, and NMTI.

COVID-19 measures

■ **Applications: Official SCC scholarship packets** outlining eligibility requirements for all student levels will be available at on the scholarship webpage at www.saipanchamber.com/scholarship-program.

■ No hard copies will be made available.

■ **Submission of applications:** In an effort to stop the spread, SCC encourages students to submit their application online on the scholarship webpage. Students may also submit their application at the SCC Office, make an appointment in advance.

To be eligible for consideration, applicants must complete the application in its entirety and submitted on or before Oct. 7, 2020. We encourage all students to submit their applications online. For more information about the 2020 Scholarship Program, please call our office at 670-234- 7150 or email coordinator2@saipanchamber.com.

The SCC is located on the third floor of the Marianas Business Plaza, Suite 413. Applications may also be sent before the due date to P.O. BOX 500806, Saipan MP, 96950. ***(PR)***

DCCA's child care program is awarded $1.6M assistance

These supplemental funds will assist in the rebuilding and recovery efforts of the CCDF program and CCDF child care providers. Expenses covered will include: renovations of two CCDF buildings that were damaged during the typhoons, purchase of two vehicles, water tanks, generators, educational materials and supplies for providers, installation of typhoon shutters, and other quality improvement activities.

These funds are made available through the Supplemental Appropriations for Disaster Relief Act of 2019 (Public Law 116-20), which made $30 million available to state, territory, and tribal Lead Agencies administering the CCDF programs. The supplemental disaster relief funds are CCDF funds and are subject to CCDF requirements and restrictions.

According to an Office of the Governor statement, disasters are stressful events for communities and families. Here in the CNMI, where typhoons are prevalent, "we must pay particular attention to the possible effects of these disasters on our children. After a disaster, children may develop symptoms of anxiety, depression, fear of dark places, and post-traumatic stress disorder. Children also often regress after a disaster, losing skills they have learned or return to behaviors they have outgrown. Common regressive reactions include bed-wetting, thumb-sucking, and greater fear of darkness and strangers, as was observed in children at CCDF day care programs after Super Typhoon Yutu. Through the supplemental funds, the CCDF Program will also be able to provide mental health consultations and support for children, providers, and families."

For any questions related to the CCDF Supplemental Disaster assistance or the CCDF Program, contact Maribel Loste, program administrator, at 664-2576 or via email at mloste.cnmiccdf@gmail.com. ***(PR)***

Trial set for man who allegedly tried to kill household member

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Superior Court has scheduled the trial for a man who allegedly tried to kill a household member and assaulted a police officer.

At a hearing last week, Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho scheduled the trial of Probio S. Cabrera III for Dec. 9, 2020, at 9am.

Cabrera, 19, pleaded not guilty to the charges of assault, assault and battery, disturbing the peace, and resisting arrest.

Camacho, after finding no other pending matters, also scheduled a pretrial conference for Nov. 18, 2020, at 10am.

Assistant attorney general Steve Kessel serves as counsel for the government, while assistant public defender Jean Pierre Nogues represented Cabrera.

According to court documents, Cabrera threatened to kill a male household member and struck the household member with his hand back in June 17, 2020. When police arrived and attempted to arrest Cabrera, he allegedly pulled away and kicked the arresting police officer.

Cabrera was not arrested, but instead, appeared before Presiding Judge Roberto C. Naraja last Aug. 3 pursuant to a penal summons that was issued to him personally.

QUAKE UPDATES

5.0-magnitude quake in Guam

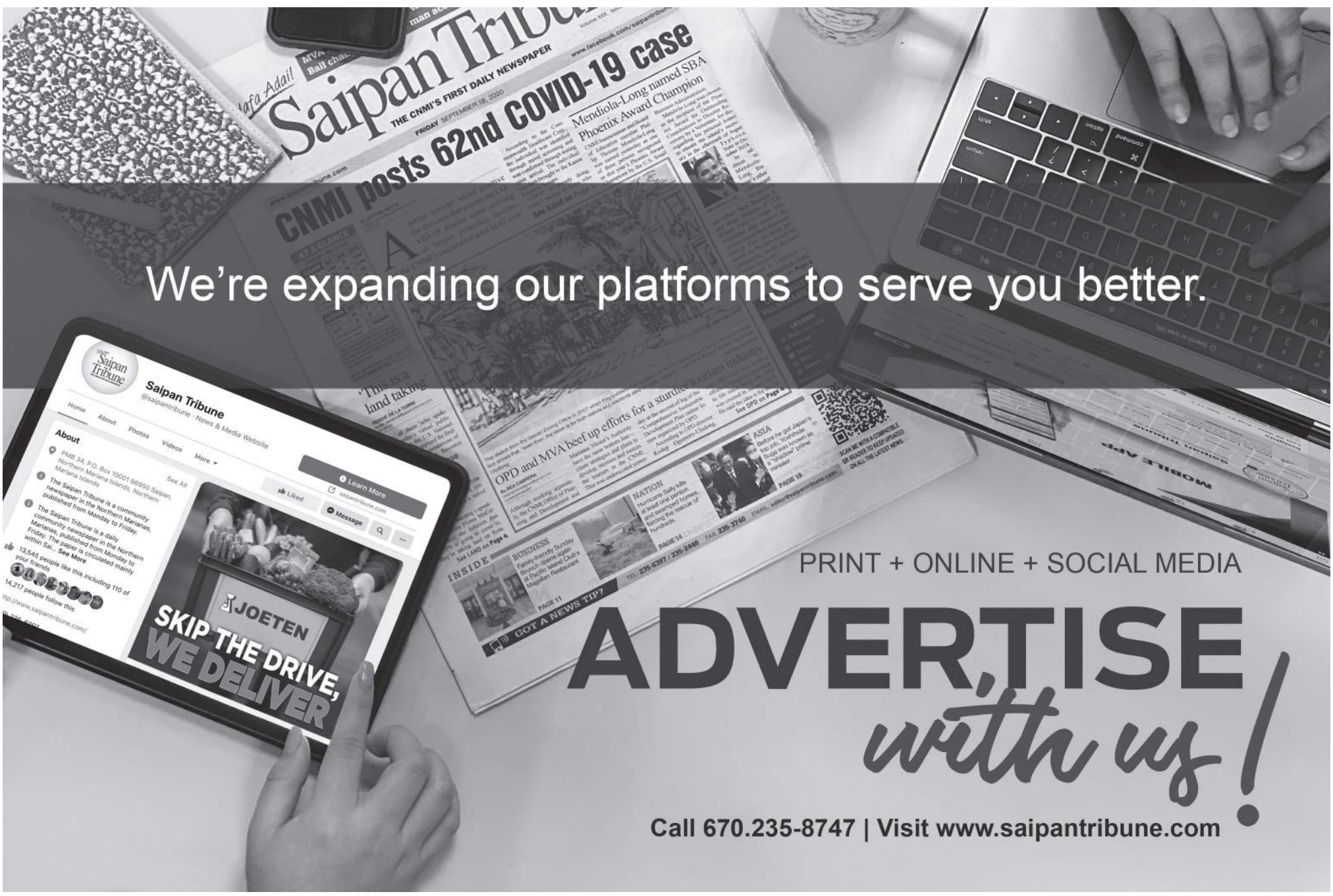
At 11:03am on Sept. 29 2020, a report of a 5.0-magnitude earthquake occurred 112 kilometers east of Yigo Village in Guam. Currently, there are no tsunami warnings or advisories that were issued by the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center. For more information, contact the CNMI EOC State Warning Point at 237-8000. ***(PR)***

4.8-magnitude earthquake in Pagan

At 2:35pm on Sept. 26, 2020, a report of a 4.8-magnitude earthquake occurred at 18.457°N 145.961°E in the Pagan region of the Northern Mariana Islands. Currently, there are no tsunami warnings or advisories issued by the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center. For more information, contact the CNMI EOC State Warning Point at 670-237-8000. ***(PR)***

4.8-magnitude earthquake in Guam

At 12:09pm on Sept. 25, 2020, a report of a 4.8-magnitude earthquake occurred 50 kilometers north-northwest of Asan-Maina, Guam. Currently, there are no tsunami warnings or advisories issued by the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center. For more information, contact the CNMI EOC State Warning Point at 670-237-8000. ***(PR)***



Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Cancel classical music?

As if having his music reduced to ringtones wasn't insult enough, the great Ludwig van Beethoven himself has now become a political football in the cancel culture debates.

Global scrutiny on the composer has heightened in this, the 250th anniversary of his birth, and increasing wokeness in academia and arts institutions everywhere has promoted suggestions ranging from punting Beethoven's music from the concert hall to recognizing the white supremacy of his fifth symphony.

(You know the one. Da da da dahhhh!)

Orchestras and operas around the country are grappling with their own supposed histories of systemic racism, real and conjured, to assuage social media mobs. There's great tension between smaller musical organizations seeking to promote social and racial justice in their music, and larger institutions that often profess to do the same while programming familiar works by Beethoven and his ilk to maximize ticket sales and pay homage to the heyday of the orchestra.

But really, the "cancel Beethoven" debate isn't so much about Beethoven or his Symphony No. 5—once adapted as intro music for the decidedly non-elitist show "Judge Judy"—but about whether classical music more generally is too exclusive and aristocratic.

The question centers on whether the expectation to dress up and sit quietly and clap only at the right time is about reverence for the music, or social coding to distinguish between the in vs. out crowds.

True, the dim, quiet concert hall seems to be the way most fans wish to enjoy their Mozart, Mahler and Mussorgsky, according to polling.

Also true, the rarefied atmosphere of the concert hall can be off-putting and stuffy.

Many of the most famous works we hear today premiered to raucous mid-movement applause and jeers and conversations and even snacking. Classical concerts were once the pop affairs of the day, more akin to modern small-venue band showcases or dinner theater than the reflective, silent affairs they evolved into during the 19th and 20th centuries.

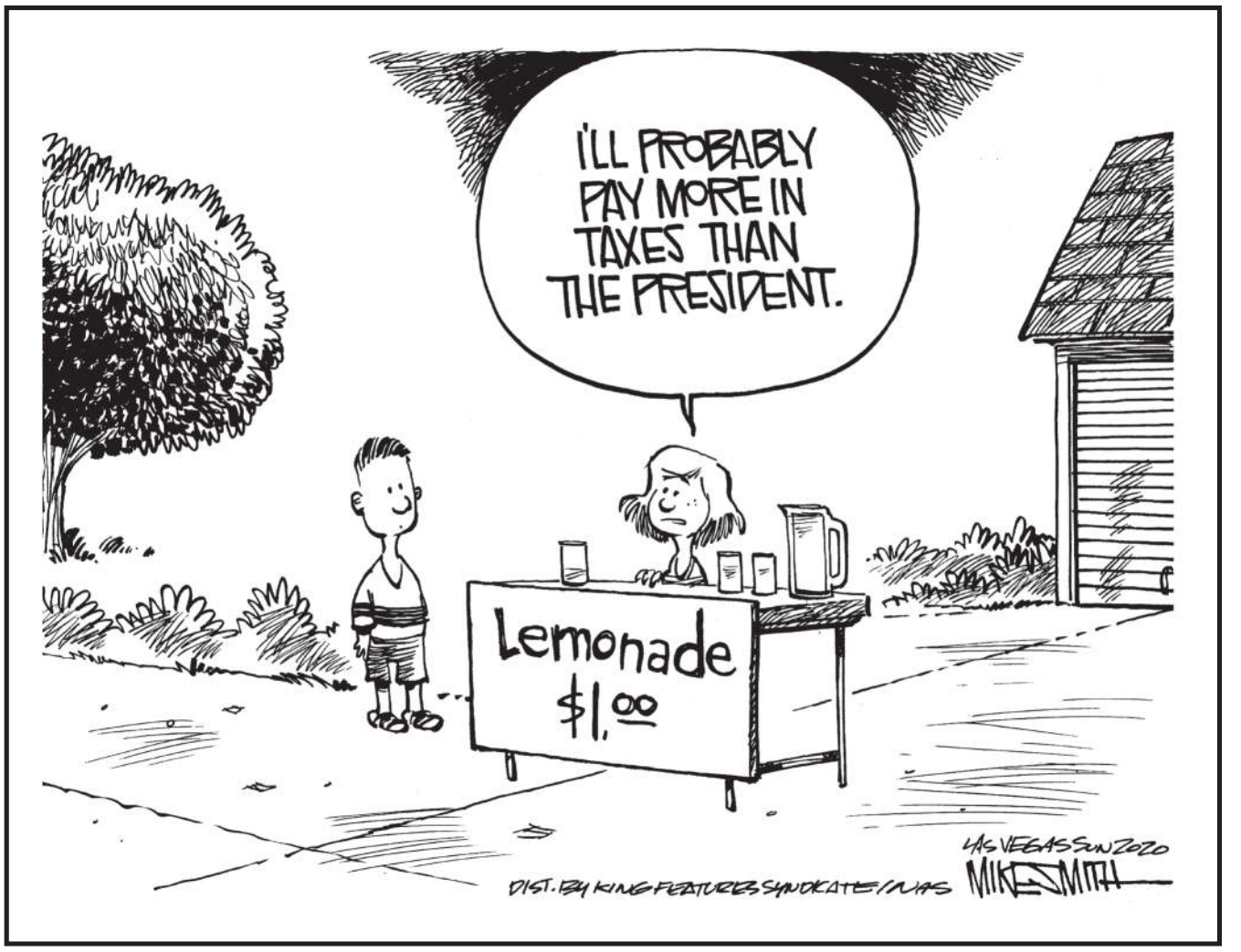
There should be a time and place for discussing whether concert etiquette actually serves the event or if it has become too suffocating without declaring Beethoven's music a symbol of white supremacy. Likewise, discussions about what music orchestras should play should and do revolve around a variety of factors including community interest, ticket sales, variety of style and more.

But the polarization of society today is such that even great Western composers and symphonies must be sacrificed in the name of battling systemic racism.

Orchestras should remain open to new ideas for concerts and concert formats, but they shouldn't heed the cries of politically motivated justice warriors, particularly when there are more pressing safety and solvency concerns as they strive to survive the pandemic.

They should recognize the need to adapt and evolve but also celebrate Beethoven. In other words, they should have that German chocolate 250th birthday cake and eat it, too.

(c) 2020 *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*



What does it mean to be a 'good Catholic'?

By PATRICK T. REARDON
Chicago Tribune

Patrick T. Reardon is the author of nine books, including Faith Stripped to Its Essence: A Discordant Pilgrimage Through Shusaku Endo's 'Silence*, the poetry collection* Requiem for David *and the forthcoming* The Loop: The 'L' Tracks That Shaped and Saved Chicago.

Back in the 1980s, during a holiday get-together, one of the family elders, who was known for sweeping declarations, made a sweeping declaration:

"You can't be a Republican," she said, "and be a good Catholic."

From couch to couch, we looked at each other and smiled gently. This woman in her 70s was upset with the efforts of GOP politicians at the time to cut services to the needy and boost military spending, including nuclear arms. But those of us in the room, good Catholics all, knew it wasn't that simple.

Roman Catholicism may have a pope who has the ex cathedra power, used rarely, to state that a particular dogma is absolutely and essentially at the core of the faith. But the reality is that the church's nearly 1.3 billion adherents across the globe have a wide range of personal and often idiosyncratic views about what is most important in the Catholic belief system.

That holiday family scene came back to me recently when I heard that a priest in La Crosse, Wisconsin, put up a YouTube video in which he asserted, "You cannot be Catholic and be a Democrat."

Later, in an interview, the Rev. James Altman labeled liberal Catholics and other liberals as "fascist bullies," acting "just like Hitler's Nazis did." For him, the only test of whether one is a Catholic is whether one supports Republican candidates, especially President Donald Trump, because of their opposition to abortion.

You don't have to be Catholic to know that the church has long taught that abortion is morally wrong.

By the same token, you're also likely to know that, for millenniums, popes and Catholic teaching have prophetically warned the world against a host of other moral wrongs. For instance, a half-century ago, Pope Paul VI told the United Nations, "War no more. War never again." St. Pope John Paul II was a staunch opponent of capital punishment, and, following on his lead, the present pope preached its abolition.

In addition, Pope Francis has called for a "broad cultural revolution" to confront and make amends for "our sin" of destroying the natural environment, and he has preached against huge income disparities as the result of "the idolatry of money."

At times, individual priests and bishops assert that Catholic citizens need only consider one issue—abortion—when casting their votes, but the official church has never done so.

So, I got to wondering: What would Citizen Jesus do?

I doubt he would vote for Joe Biden simply because he's Catholic. And I doubt he would vote for Trump solely because the president has nominated another Catholic to the U.S. Supreme Court, Judge Amy Coney Barrett.

The thing is: Jesus never wrote out a political platform. All he had to say about politics—"Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's"—leaves a lot of room for interpretation. Of course, Christians have spent 2,000 years interpreting what he said and what he did.

For me, I don't think so much about who's a "good Catholic." I think more about who Jesus said were "blessed." According to Matthew's gospel, he spelled this out in the Sermon on the Mount. (Luke's gospel has fewer items, and says the sermon was on a plain, not on a hill. Just another example of the ambiguities around Jesus.)

I would never claim to know how Citizen Jesus would vote in November. But it seems to me that the Beatitudes—the "blesseds"—from the Sermon on the Mount would come into play as he got ready to mark his ballot.

"Blessed are the poor in spirit," he says as he starts. Blessed, too, he says, are those grieving, the meek, the merciful and the clean of heart.

He's describing people who are on the edges of things, not those in the center of power or trying to get there. No politician is going to fit that description, but maybe the measure of candidates is the degree to which they see these people on the margins as blessed.

Jesus has two other things to say: "Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness. ... Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness." Oh, and one more: "Blessed are the peacemakers."

Great saints and great geniuses over the past 20 centuries have struggled to understand what Jesus is saying in that sermon and what the implications are for those who want to follow his example and live by his teaching.

I can't say what Citizen Jesus would do in five weeks. But when Citizen Reardon goes to vote, I'm going to keep those Beatitudes in mind.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Most Americans want more global engagement

The novel coronavirus is a deadly reminder that in our interconnected world, grave dangers originating beyond our shores can prove devastating at home. In little more than six months, the virus has killed about 200,000 Americans, and the death toll keep rising.

One might have expected Americans to respond to this plague by turning inward, focusing on addressing the health crisis that has befallen the country and putting people back to work—to reduce our vulnerabilities around the world by staying out of world affairs.

That, indeed, has been the inclination of the Trump administration—which moved to close borders, end dependence on foreign sources of critical medical equipment and supplies, pull out of the World Health Organization, which is leading the pandemic response, and rapidly develop vaccines to inoculate Americans first.

And, yet, the latest survey by the Chicago Council on Global Affairs shows that most Americans reject this insular reasoning. Rather than moving to cut ties with the rest of the world, majorities of Americans continue to prefer active U.S. engagement and shared leadership in world affairs. In fact, nearly two-thirds of Americans (62%) say that the COVID-19 pandemic has increased the importance of U.S. coordination and collaboration with other countries to solve global issues.

"One thing I believe the pandemic has taught us," a respondent to our survey explained, "is that we are part of one big world." Most Americans agree. A strong majority (84%) agrees that international cooperation is the only way to solve large global challenges like pandemics and climate change.

True to this sentiment, 7 in 10 Americans (68%) say that the United States will benefit most by taking an active part in world affairs. This finding is in line with some of the highest readings in our survey over the past 46 years. Moreover, a majority of Americans think the United States should be even more involved in addressing global issues (52%), with an additional 25% saying it should be as involved as it is now.

At the same time, few Americans want the United States to lead alone. A strong majority (68%) prefer a shared leadership role for the United States. Just 24% prefer the United States take a dominant leadership role, and very few say the United States should have no global leadership role at all (6%).

President Donald Trump has steadfastly maintained that America should put its own interests first and ignore the preferences of our allies. He's also insisted that they pay the United States for defending them.

The vast majority of Americans reject both arguments. Seven in 10 say that the United States should be more willing to make decisions with its allies when dealing with international problems—even if this means sometimes going along with a policy that is not its first choice (71%, up from 66% in 2018). And an even larger majority of the public (76%) rejects the notion that having allies is not worth the cost of defending them.

Public support for America's security alliance remains strong in our latest survey. Solid majorities continue to say alliances in Europe (68%), East Asia (59%) and the Middle East (60%) mostly benefit both the United States and U.S. allies or mostly the United States alone. About three-quarters support maintaining or increasing the U.S. commitment to NATO (73%)—higher than at any time in the Cold War.

A majority of Americans also continue to express support for coming to the aid of key allies. Six in 10 are willing to send U.S. troops to defend South Korea if it is attacked by North Korea (58%); and 52% support the use of U.S. troops if Russia invades a NATO ally, such as Latvia, Lithuania or Estonia.

After the pandemic hit, many speculated that it would radically reshape or even bring about the end of globalization, and both President Trump and former Vice President Joe Biden have argued for bringing manufacturing back home. Even so, two-thirds of Americans (65%) continue to say that globalization is mostly good for the United States—unchanged since 2014.

The public also continues to express solid support for international trade, with majorities believing trade is good for U.S. relations with other countries (84%), U.S. consumers (82%), the U.S. economy (74%) and creating jobs in the United States (59%). And when it comes to dependence on foreign sources of supply, Americans by a nearly 2-to-1 margin (63-34%) prefer that many countries produce goods to keep prices low rather than every country produce all their own goods.

The COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted every aspect of life for Americans. But it hasn't turned them away from the world. To the contrary, most Americans continue to believe that their security and prosperity are best served by remaining active in the world and working with others, especially our allies, to overcome global problems.

By IVO DAALDER and DINA SMELTZ
Chicago Tribune

Ivo Daalder is president of the Chicago Council on Global Affairs and a former U.S. ambassador to NATO. Dina Smeltz is a senior fellow for public opinion at the council's Lester Crown Center for Foreign Policy.

There's room for surprises from Amy Coney Barrett

Here is a paradox. It is pretty easy to predict the voting patterns of new Supreme Court justices. But it can be exceedingly difficult to predict the votes of justices in specific cases, which means that it can be difficult as well to predict how those cases are going to be decided.

When President Bill Clinton appointed Stephen Breyer to the Supreme Court in 1994, those who knew Breyer's work knew that his voting patterns would be moderately liberal—more centrist than those of progressive heroes Justices Thurgood Marshall and William Brennan, but to the left, for sure, of Justice Antonin Scalia. And when President George W. Bush appointed John Roberts as chief justice in 2005, it was clear, from Roberts' record, that his voting patterns would be moderately conservative—distinctly more conservative than those of Breyer, but distinctly less so than those of Scalia.

Something similar can be said about every Supreme Court nominee over the last half-century.

At the same time, the court is capable of big surprises. For example, many experts did not predict that in 2015, it would rule in favor of same-sex marriage; that in 2020, it would strike down President Donald Trump's decision to repeal President Barack Obama's Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, designed to protect some unauthorized aliens from removal; or that in the same year, it would interpret the Civil Rights Act of 1964 to forbid discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation.

Indeed, a careful effort to test whether legal experts are good at forecasting the decisions of the Supreme Court found that such experts were right just 59.1% of the time. That's better than flipping a coin—but it's not a lot better.

Judge Amy Coney Barrett's background shows unmistakably conservative inclinations, and it is a good bet that she would count, broadly speaking, as a conservative justice. But would she vote to strike down the Affordable Care Act, the 2010 health care law widely known as Obamacare? Would she vote to overrule Roe v. Wade, the 1973 ruling that women have a constitutional right to have an abortion? To forbid any and all affirmative action programs? Would she take a strong stand against gun control laws? Would she give more protection to commercial advertising?

On these questions, any answer would be speculative. Even though Barrett is highly likely to show conservative voting patterns, and even if we know the same about the five other Republican appointees, it is hard to be certain how they will vote in individual cases. There are three main reasons.

The first is that even if justices can be characterized as conservative, they might have very different views about their appropriate judicial role and in particular about their obligation to respect the court's own precedents. For example, Chief Justice Roberts insists on that obligation—far more so than (say) Justice Clarence Thomas, who is not reluctant to overrule precedents if he thinks that they are wrong. (The record of a lower court judge is not very informative, because such judges are bound by Supreme Court rulings.)

Preliminary signs suggest that with respect to precedent, Justice Brett Kavanaugh may be aligned with Roberts, and that Justice Neil Gorsuch may take Thomas's approach. On this count, Barrett's approach remains unclear.

The second reason is that even if a justice's voting patterns are predictably conservative or liberal, his or her views on particular issues, and on particular cases, might turn out to be surprising. For example, Scalia liked to invoke the "rule of lenity," which tells courts to rule in favor of criminal defendants when statutes are ambiguous.

It looks as if Gorsuch may have libertarian leanings, helping to explain his decisive vote, in 2020, to protect a Native American against prosecution in state court. "Today we are asked whether the land these treaties promised remains an Indian reservation for purposes of federal criminal law," Gorsuch wrote. "Because Congress has not said otherwise, we hold the government to its word."

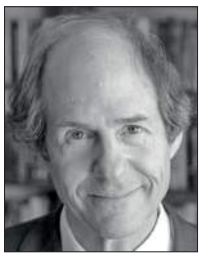
Does Barrett have libertarian leanings as well? That, too, is unclear.

The third reason is that the specifics matter, whether they involve law or fact. A justice might show broadly conservative voting patterns, but in a particular case might encounter a convincing argument that the stereotypically conservative position is wrong—whether the issue involves sex equality, presidential power or environmental protection. The logic of the argument, and the particular dispute, might move any justice in what might seem to be an uncharacteristic direction.

In an unusual public statement in 2019, Roberts said, "We do not have Obama judges or Trump judges, Bush judges or Clinton judges." He wasn't entirely right, but he wasn't entirely wrong, either.

Elections have consequences, and presidents almost always get the kind of justices that they want. But it's also important, and perhaps a consolation, to say that on particular occasions, they are going to be surprised—and disappointed.

By CASS R. SUNSTEIN
Bloomberg Opinion



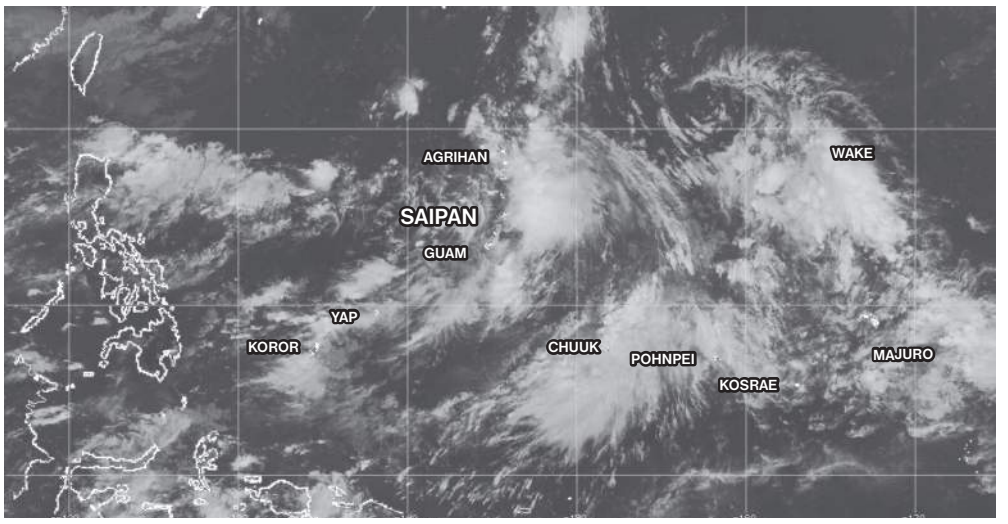
Cass R. Sunstein is a Bloomberg Opinion *columnist. He is the author of* Too Much Information *and a co-author of* Nudge: Improving Decisions About Health, Wealth and Happiness*. For more articles like this, please visit us at bloomberg.com/opinion*

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Cloudy with numerous locally heavy showers and isolated thunderstorms. Southwest winds 5 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. South winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. South winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with a chance of showers and thunderstorms.
87° 77°	87° 77°	87° 77°	87° 77°	87° 77°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 12:31 PM, WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2020

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Radar and satellite indicate the heavy showers and thunderstorms are south and east of the local area. Nixed the scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms for this afternoon. Activity still expected to increase tonight.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	85° / 78°
Palau	Thunderstorms	84° / 77°
Yap	Thunderstorms	85° / 78°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	87° / 79°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	86° / 78°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	86° / 78°
Majuro	Mostly Sunny	86° / 80°

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:06 AM	6:06 PM
Friday	6:06 AM	6:05 PM
Saturday	6:06 AM	6:04 PM
Sunday	6:07 AM	6:04 PM
Monday	6:07 AM	6:03 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	5:24 AM	5:56 PM
Friday	-	6:11 AM	6:31 PM
Saturday	-	6:57 AM	7:06 PM
Sunday	-	7:43 AM	7:42 PM
Monday	-	8:30 AM	8:19 PM

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	63° / 54°
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	72° / 48°
Hong Kong	Mostly Sunny	91° / 81°
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	87° / 75°
London	Showers	61° / 48°
Los Angeles	Mostly Sunny	77° / 64°
Manila	Thunderstorms	90° / 79°
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	64° / 45°
Miami	Thunderstorms	85° / 80°
New York	Sunny	74° / 60°
Osaka	Showers	77° / 64°
Paris	Showers	64° / 52°
Busan	Partly Cloudy	73° / 63°
Rome	Mostly Sunny	73° / 61°
Salem	Mostly Cloudy	79° / 64°
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	70° / 55°
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	75° / 54°
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	79° / 64°
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	75° / 58°

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
1:35 AM	LOW TIDE	0.65
7:09 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.75
1:37 PM	LOW TIDE	0.33
7:44 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.80

STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

- Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.
- Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.
- Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.
- Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.
- Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.
- Create a household plan of action, https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklisthousehold-ready.html
- Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

Continue good hand hygiene

- Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

- Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:
  - ❏ Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.
  - ❏ Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are available, use an alcohol-based sanitizer.
  - ❏ Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
  - ❏ Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561 These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mpand, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

Source: Office of the Governor

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E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF SEPTEMBER 11, 2020

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	7:30am	8:10am	1, 4
UA117	7:50am	8:30am	6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

UA117/183	7:30am	9:10pm	1 via Guam

GUAM-MANILA (MNL)

UA183	7:25pm	9:10pm	1 via Guam
UA183	9:05pm	10:50pm	5 via Guam

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	5:50am	6:31am	1, 4
UA174	6:15am	6:56am	6

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA184/174	11:45pm	6:56am+1	5 via Guam

MANILA (MNL)-GUAM

UA184	10:25pm	4:25am+1	1 via Guam
UA184	11:45pm	5:33am+1	5 via Guam

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301.2	8:30AM	9:00AM	Tues/Fri
1303	3:30PM	4:00PM	Tues/Fri

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101.2	9:30AM	10:00AM	Tues/Fri
3103	4:30PM	5:00PM	Tues/Fri

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	13:00	13:30	Temporarily Unavailable

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00	7:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1205	11:00	11:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1206	12:00	12:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1207	13:00	13:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1208	14:00	14:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
1211	17:00	17:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1212	18:00	18:15	Temporarily Unavailable

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2101	7:30	7:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	10:30	10:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2105	11:30	11:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2106	12:30	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2107	13:30	13:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2108	14:30	14:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
2111	17:30	17:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2112	18:30	18:45	Temporarily Unavailable

Business

World Resort reopens Wave Jungle, Buffet World

Beginning this weekend, Saipan World Resort is bringing back the perfect getaway for family and friends as they reopen the Wave Jungle waterpark and The Buffet World that are guaranteed to make your weekends active, fun, and memorable. After six months of hiatus due to COVID-19 concerns, World Resort is ready for guests of all ages.

World Resort Sales and Marketing manager Mike Babauta said that they've been waiting to reopen the facilities, but wanted to first know if people wanted it. "There is definitely a demand from the community… We did a poll on our Facebook page asking people if they wanted us to open the waterpark and if they did, we asked them to like and share and the response surprised us," he said.

"In less than 30 minutes, we had 100 shares and in less than hour, we had 200 shares. The overwhelming response helped management and our team to decide 'hey, let's do it!' We have been thinking of opening early but we wanted to make sure that the demand is there and if we can do it in terms of safety for both staff and guests," he added.

Safety was the driving factor for Babauta and his team and they did everything by the book. "After a series of management meetings, our general manager called it saying let's open but prioritize safety first…We went through inspections, worked with the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, Department of Public Works, and Department of Commerce… our staff and lifeguards underwent training so the water ark is up to par with the standards," he said.

"If people wanted to go to the Wave Jungle they will have to go through the entrance that will directly lead them to the waterpark… if people are going to The Buffet World, they will go through the lobby. In both entrances, we have security to take body temperature, log in your name and number. Guests will be required to write their actual name and we may even ask for an identification card to verify and if they don't want to give the real name, we may have to deny them entrance and that is our protocol," he added.

BEA CABRERA

Saipan World Resort sales and marketing manager Mike Babauta and waterpark lifeguard senior supervisor Jomar Danas welcome the community to the Wave Jungle and The Buffet World starting this weekend.

Waterpark lifeguard senior supervisor Jomar Domas echoes the safety measures in place at the waterpark. "We based our protocols from Centers for Disease Control and Prevention which mostly requires social distancing and personal hygiene… There is no age limit at the waterpark as the requirement is 17 years old and below must be accompanied by an adult," he said.

"Due to limited capacity, we set a cap of 250 people for safety reasons… We have cottages or cabanas for rent and island parasols with three chairs. Due to social distancing standards, everything is set 6 feet apart… We are stoked that we are reopening and we are looking forward to seeing everyone again," he added

"We might be strict that people not in the same group are interacting. We may have to break that for everyone's safety. Social distancing is enforced in and out of the pool," said Domas.

As for the buffet, Babauta said that they are doing things differently. "To meet the health and safety protocols, we have changed the way our buffet style goes as there are only a few where guests can access stations like for salad and soup. As you enter, we will direct you to the table and as you go get your salad and soup, our team will set the plates and the food that chef prepared that day."

"We have a team in charge of going around with trollies who can give you a refill on the food you like. This way, we eliminate the long lines and it is easier for guests to eat and never leave their table… We haven't done this concept but we are excited to make it convenient for guests" he added.

As for opening other amenities in the hotel, Babauta said that they are doing it in phases. "We opened Oasis, it was doing good but we closed it yesterday (Sept. 30) and we now want to focus on something bigger—the waterpark and restaurant. The next phase maybe doing banquets and private functions and from there we might go open the rooms all of which will depend what the market is looking for."

Wave Jungle is open Saturday and Sunday from 10am to 5pm. Its $24 for adults and $17 for children. The Buffet World is open Saturday and Sunday from 11am to 2pm. Its $22 for adults and $11 for children. If you want a Wave Jungle and The Buffet World package it will only cost $34 for adults and $22 for children. For snacks and beverages, The Sunset Beach Bar is open Saturday and Sunday from 11am to 5pm.

Reservation is encouraged. For more information, call 234-5900 or go to World Resort's Facebook page. ***(Bea Cabrera)***

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-20-027

ISLEY WATER TANK FENCE REPLACEMENT PROJECT

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from contractors for the replacement of the existing Isley Water Tank security fence in Isley Field, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Prospective Bidders for this IFB must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $100.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference is scheduled on **October 5, 2020 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"CUC-IFB-20-027** ***Isley Water Tank Fence Replacement Project"***, to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on October 27, 2020**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement the form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

A *Bid Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The bid guarantee may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States, Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

All bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or request for clarification regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on October 9, 2020** to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, at email manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Ms. Yvonne Ogumoro, CUC Water/Wastewater Engineer at email yvonne.ogumoro@cucgov.org and Ms. Christie Sablan, Procurement & Supply, Purchasing Technician, Senior at email christie.sablan@cucgov.org

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY BOYER SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-20-030

INSTALLATION OF GRANULAR ACTIVATED CARBON (GAC) FILTER FOR TEN (10) WELLS (W19-072)

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Installation of Granular Activated Carbon (GAC) Filter for Ten (10) Wells in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The project consists, in general installation of a new GAC filter, strainer, flow meter, installation of gate valve assembly, pressure gauges, air relief valve, pressure release valves, concrete pad and other related work. The work shall be done in accordance with the Project Plans and Specifications and without disruption to the daily operation of the water system.

This project is funded by a grant from the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of the approval for project award from USEPA.

CUC requires the Project to be completed in **180 calendar days** from date of award of contract.

Prospective Bidders for this IFB must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $200.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by a Site Visit is scheduled on **September 17, 2020 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"CUC-IFB-20-030,** ***Installation of Granular Activated Carbon (GAC) Filter for Ten (10) Wells",*** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on October 06, 2020**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement the form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. **Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.**

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

A *Bid Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The bid guarantee may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States, Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). **Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.**

All bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or request for clarification regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on September 21, 2020** to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Mr. Joel Puyat, CUC Water/Wastewater Engineer via email joel.puyat@cucgov.org and Ms. Christie Sablan, Procurement & Supply, Purchasing Technician, Senior via email christie.sablan@cucgov.org

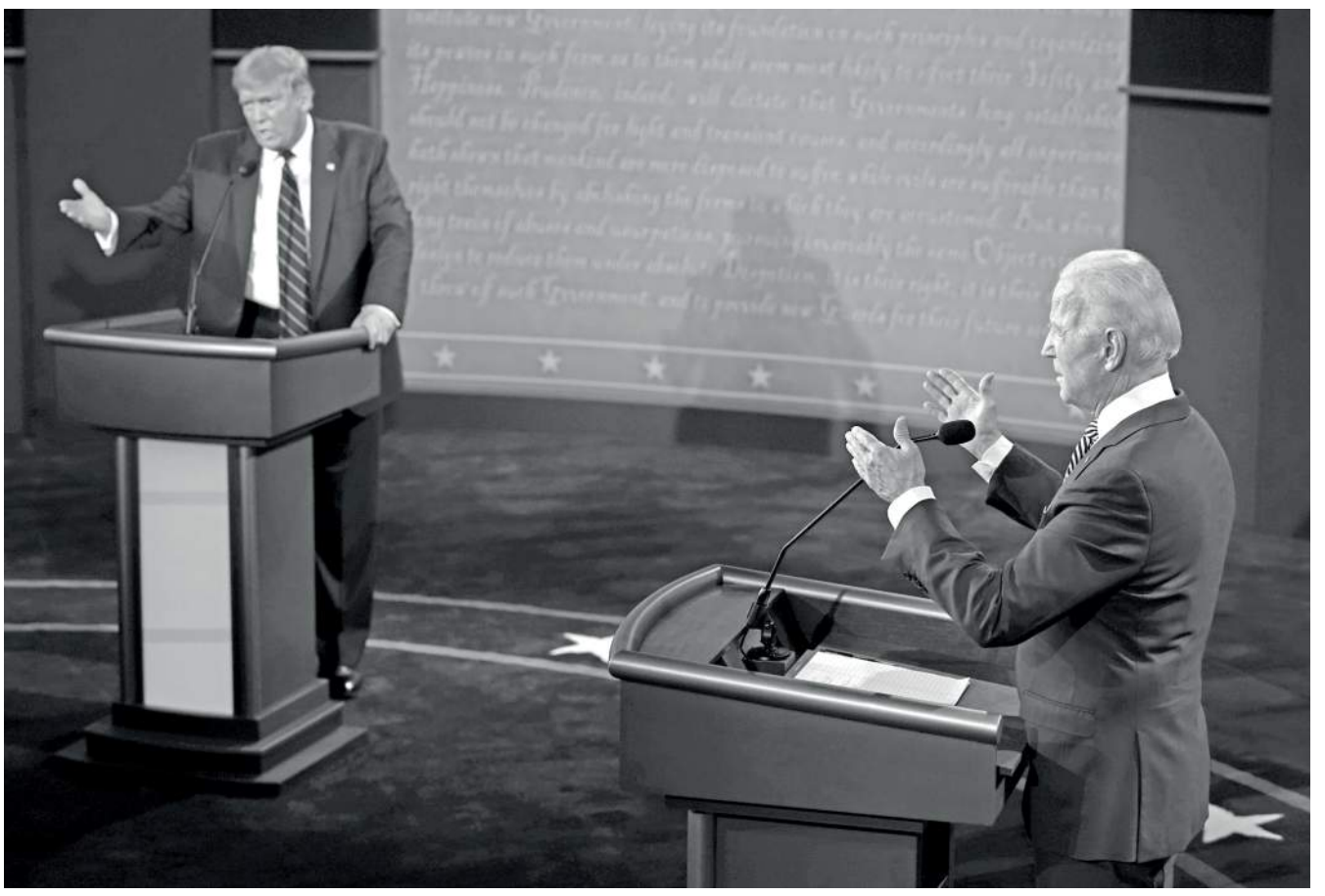
CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

Nation

Bitter debate taunts overpower Trump's, Biden's visions



AP
President Donald Trump and Democratic presidential candidate former Vice President Joe Biden exchange points during the first presidential debate Tuesday, Sept. 29, 2020, at Case Western University and Cleveland Clinic, in Cleveland, Ohio.

CLEVELAND (AP)—The first debate between President Donald Trump and Democratic challenger Joe Biden deteriorated into a bitter showdown Tuesday as the president repeatedly interrupted his opponent with angry — and personal — taunts that sometimes overshadowed the sharply different visions each man has of a nation facing historic crises.

In the most chaotic presidential debate in recent memory, Trump refused to condemn white supremacists who have supported him, telling one such group known as Proud Boys to "stand back, stand by." There were also heated clashes over the president's handling of the pandemic, the integrity of the election results, deeply personal attacks about Biden's family and how the Supreme Court will shape the future of the nation's health care.

But it was the belligerent tone that was persistent, somehow fitting for what has been an extraordinarily ugly campaign. The two men frequently talked over each other with Trump interrupting, nearly shouting, so often that Biden eventually snapped at him, "Will you shut up, man?"

"The fact is that everything he's saying so far is simply a lie," Biden said. "I'm not here to call out his lies. Everybody knows he's a liar."

The presidential race has been remarkably stable for weeks, despite the historic crises that have battered the country this year, including a pandemic that has killed more than 200,000 Americans and a reckoning over race and police brutality. With just five weeks until Election Day and voting already underway in some key states, Biden has maintained a lead in national polls and in many battlegrounds.

It's unclear whether the debate will do much to change those dynamics.

Over and over, Trump tried to control the conversation, interrupting Biden and repeatedly talking over the moderator, Chris Wallace of Fox News. The president tried to deflect tough lines of questioning — whether on his taxes or the pandemic — to deliver broadsides against Biden.

The president drew a lecture from Wallace, who pleaded with both men to stop talking over each other. Biden tried to push back against Trump, sometimes looking right at the camera to directly address viewers rather than the president and snapping, "It's hard to get a word in with this clown."

Again refusing to commit to honoring the results of the election, Trump spread falsehoods about mail voting. Without evidence, he suggested that the process — surging in popularity during the pandemic — was ripe for fraud and incorrectly claimed impropriety at a Pennsylvania voting site.

But despite his efforts to dominate the discussion, Trump was frequently put on the defensive and tried to sidestep when he was asked if he was willing to condemn white supremacists and paramilitary groups.

"What do you want to call them? Give me a name. Give me a name," Trump said, before Wallace mentioned the far right, violent group known as the Proud Boys. Trump then pointedly did not condemn the group, instead saying, "Proud Boys, stand back, stand by. But I'll tell you what, somebody's got to do something about Antifa and the left because this is not right-wing problem. This is a left wing problem."

Biden attacked Trump's handling of the pandemic, saying that the president "waited and waited" to act when the virus reached America's shores and "still doesn't have a plan." Biden told Trump to "get out of your bunker and get out of the sand trap" and go in his golf cart to the Oval Office to come up with a bipartisan plan to save people.

Trump snarled a response, declaring that "I'll tell you Joe, you could never have done the job that we did. You don't have it in your blood."

"I know how to do the job," was the solemn response from Biden, who served eight years as Barack Obama's vice president.

The pandemic's effects were in plain sight, with the candidates' lecterns spaced far apart, all of the guests in the small crowd tested and the traditional opening handshake scrapped. The men did not shake hands and, while neither candidate wore a mask to take the stage, their families did sport face coverings.

Court to release grand jury record in Breonna Taylor case

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP)—Kentucky's attorney general acknowledged that he never recommended homicide charges against any of the police officers conducting the drug raid that led to Breonna Taylor's death, and said he didn't object to a public release of the grand jury's deliberations.

Amid outrage over the jury's decision last week to not charge any of the officers for Taylor's fatal shooting, Attorney General Daniel Cameron said Monday that he also did not object to members of the panel speaking publicly about their experience.

"We have no concerns with grand jurors sharing their thoughts on our presentation because we are confident in the case we presented," Cameron said in a written statement.

Cameron also revealed late Monday that the only charge he recommended to the grand jury was that of wanton endangerment. He had previously declined to say what charges he recommended.

The grand jury last week charged Officer Brett Hankison with three counts of wanton endangerment for firing through Taylor's apartment into an adjacent unit with people inside. No one in the adjacent unit was injured. Hankison, who was fired from the force for his actions during the raid, pleaded not guilty on Monday.

None of the officers was indicted in the killing of Taylor, who was shot five times after they knocked down her door to serve a narcotics warrant on March 13.

In a TV interview Tuesday evening, Cameron also indicated that he had recommended no charges against the other officers, Jonathan Mattingly and Myles Cosgrove.

Speaking to WDRB-TV in Louisville, he remarked of the grand jury, "They're an independent body. If they wanted to make an assessment about different charges, they could have done that. But our recommendation was that Mattingly and Cosgrove were justified in their acts and their conduct."

At a news conference last week, Cameron said Mattingly and Cosgrove were justified in firing their weapons because Taylor's boyfriend had fired at them first. Mattingly was struck by a bullet in the leg. There was no conclusive evidence that any of Hankison's bullets hit Taylor, Cameron said.

"For that reason, the only charge recommended was wanton endangerment," he said.

He also said at the news conference that prosecutors "walked them (the grand jury) through every homicide offense and also presented all of the information that was available to the grand jury."

A judge ordered the public release of the grand jury proceedings during Hankison's arraignment Monday.

Cameron said the grand jury is meant to be a "secretive body," but "it's apparent that the public interest in this case isn't going to allow that to happen."

The attorney general said a record of the proceedings would be released Wednesday, and that the public "will see that over the course of two-and-a-half days, our team presented a thorough and complete case to the grand jury."

An attorney for Taylor's family reiterated the need to release the complete record.

Judge blocks big fee hikes for citizenship, other benefits

SAN DIEGO (AP)—A federal judge on Tuesday halted major fee increases for citizenship and other immigration benefits three days before they were to take effect, saying the last two chiefs of the Homeland Security Department were likely appointed illegally.

U.S. District Judge Jeffrey White found Kevin McAleenan was improperly catapulted to acting secretary when Kirstjen Nielsen resigned in April 2019. The judge said McAleenan, as Customs and Border Protection commissioner, was seventh in line to assume the acting role under rules of succession at the time.

Chad Wolf, who became acting secretary after McAleenan resigned in November 2019, was also promoted out of order from his position as under secretary for strategy, policy and plans.

White, who was appointed by President George W. Bush in Oakland, California, also blocked the fee hikes on grounds that the Trump administration likely failed to justify its decision as required under federal rulemaking.

The Homeland Security and Justice departments did not immediately respond to requests for comment Tuesday night. Homeland Security strongly disagreed with a similar finding in August by the Government Accountability Office, a congressional investigative agency, that McAleenan, Wolf and Ken Cuccinelli, the department's second-highest ranking official, were appointed illegally.

President Donald Trump nominated Wolf to be secretary Sept. 10 but the Senate has not confirmed the appointment.

Fees were set to increase by an average of 20% on Friday at U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, the agency responsible for awarding citizenship, green cards and temporary work permits.

Changes were to include a first-ever fee for applying for asylum of $50. Asylum-seekers would also have to pay $550 if they sought work authorization and $30 for collecting biometrics.

The fee to become a naturalized citizen was set to jump to $1,170 from $640. Fee waivers were to be largely eliminated for people who say they cannot afford to pay.

Asia

N. KOREA ON VIRUS THREAT:

'Under safe and stable control'

North Korea on Tuesday called on the world's governments to "display effective leadership" in the fight against COVID-19 and said its own measures against the pandemic, which it called "preemptive, timely and strong," ensured it had the threat "under safe and stable control."

Kim Song, the country's U.N. ambassador, said a tightly administered anti-pandemic effort in his nation had been working. North Korea strictly regulates foreign visitors — even more so during the pandemic that's killed more than 1 million people worldwide — and filters all information through its state propaganda apparatus, with details about its approach to the coronavirus relatively scant.

"(The) anti-epidemic situation in our country is now under safe and stable control," the ambassador said in a rare live address at the U.N. General Assembly.

"A series of state measures are now being taken to block the virus inflow into the country, and all people adhere strictly to anti-epidemic regulations while maintaining the highest alert," he said.

Further, Kim said the government "will not tolerate even a smallest bit of slackness or concession, but further strengthen the state emergency anti-epidemic measures until the danger of the pandemic inflow is completely eliminated."

Until Tuesday, all speeches at the U.N. General Assembly over the past week were virtual, delivered by world leaders in prerecorded videos from their home nations. The meeting concluded with a smattering of speeches by officials based at the United Nations — including Kim.

North Korean state media later reported the nation's leader Kim Jong Un had presided over a meeting of the ruling Workers' Party's Politburo on Tuesday. The Korean Central News Agency said officials during the meeting warned against complacency and addressed unspecified problems in the country's anti-virus campaign while discussing ways to maintain a "streelstrong anti-epidemic system."

North Korea has steadfastly said there hasn't been a single virus case on its territory, a claim widely disputed by foreign experts.

Kim Song did not mention U.S. President Donald Trump or the United States directly in his speech. But he spoke of "the maneuvers of hostile forces"— a frequent euphemism for the United States and South Korea — and condemned the U.S. trade embargo against Cuba as "economic genocide."

Kim Jong Un, the third generation of his family to rule the nation, had not been expected to address the U.N. this year. Kim Song also addressed the General Assembly last year.

Trump and Kim Jong Un have met three times in high-stakes nuclear diplomacy that has largely stalled since their second meeting in February 2019, where the Americans rejected North Korea's demands for major sanctions relief in exchange for a piecemeal deal toward partially surrendering its nuclear capabilities.

The North in recent months has stated it would never again gift Trump with high-profile meetings he could boast of as foreign policy achievements unless it gets something substantial in return. Most experts say North Korea is likely to avoid serious negotiations with the Trump administration before the November presidential election because there's a chance U.S. leadership could change.

Kim Song also peppered his speech Tuesday with familiar themes about the country being continually under nuclear threat, which it has long cited as the basis for its pursuit of its own nuclear weapons. "In the present world, where high-handedness based on strength is rampant, genuine peace can only be safeguarded when one possesses the absolute strength to prevent war itself," the U.N. ambassador said.

Duterte questions letting Facebook stay after accounts shut

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—President Rodrigo Duterte questioned why he should allow Facebook to continue operating in the Philippines after the social media giant removed accounts he said supported his government's interests, including fighting insurgents.

Facebook said last week it had removed a Philippine network of fake accounts whose operators tried to conceal their identities and used "coordinated inauthentic behavior" to mislead people.

Duterte did not specify which Facebook accounts he meant. He said he had not thought of specific steps to take on the issue, though he sought a meeting with the American company in his rambling televised remarks Monday night on a range of topics.

"You know, Facebook, insurgency is about overturning government," Duterte said. "What would be the point of allowing you to continue if you cannot help us?"

"If you cannot help me protect government interest, then let us talk. We may or we may not find the solution. If we cannot, then I'm sorry," Duterte said.

Facebook said in its announcement last week that its investigation into the fake, misleading content "found links to Philippine military and Philippine police" behind them.

The Philippine military and police, however, said none of their official Facebook accounts was removed.

Military chief of staff Gilbert Gapay said an account of a military-backed private group called "Hands Off Our Children," which campaigns against recruitment of students and children by communist guerrillas, was removed, and he asked that the account be reinstated.

"Their grievances are legitimate, and their calls urgent," Gapay said, adding that the "arbitrary shutdown" of the account undermined the efforts of a group of parents who were raising awareness of "the vulnerability of children at the hands of communist front organizations."

Presidential spokesman Harry Roque said Duterte was among those opposed to Facebook's shutdown of the group's account, which he said amounted to censorship.

"They may use as justification inauthentic behavior but the effect is censorship because the idea contained in that page was deleted," Roque said, urging the group to bring the issue to court.

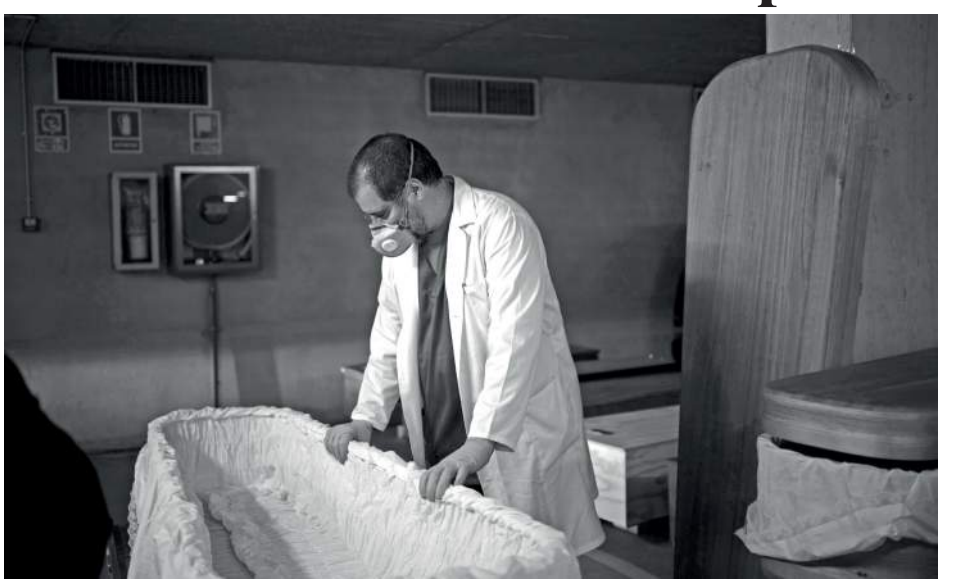
Asked if the Duterte administration agrees with the use of fake accounts to deliver a message to the public, Roque said the government is not aware of whether the accounts were fake and would not know how Facebook reached that conclusion.

There was no immediate comment from Facebook officials.

Critics have separately accused Duterte's camp of covertly maintaining fake social media accounts to show support to the president and undermine his critics in a country with one of the largest numbers of Facebook users in Southeast Asia. Duterte allies have denied the allegations.

World

Death toll from COVID tops 1M



AP

In this April 14, 2020, file photo, head mortician Jordi Fernandez prepares a coffin before placing the body of a COVID-19 victim in an underground parking garage turned into a morgue at the Collserola funeral home in Barcelona.

NEW DELHI (AP)— Joginder Chaudhary was his parents' greatest pride, raised with the little they earned farming a half-acre plot in central India to become the first doctor from their village.

For the coronavirus, though, he was just one more in a million.

After the virus killed the 27-year-old Chaudhary in late July, his mother wept inconsolably. With her son gone, Premlata Chaudhary said, how could she go on living? Three weeks later, on Aug. 18, the virus took her life, too — yet another number in an unrelenting march toward a woeful milestone.

Now, 8 1/2 months after an infection doctors had never seen before claimed its first victims in China, the pandemic's confirmed death toll has eclipsed 1 million, according to a count by Johns Hopkins University.

That is partly due to the virus's quickening spread through India, where reported deaths have topped 96,000 and cases are increasing at the fastest rate in the world.

The United States, where the virus has killed about 205,000 people, accounts for 1 out of 5 deaths worldwide, far more than any other country despite its wealth and medical resources.

"It's not just a number. It's human beings. It's people we love," said Dr. Howard Markel, a professor of medical history at the University of Michigan who has advised government officials on containing pandemics. On a Thursday morning in February, Markel's mother, 84 and infirm, was stricken by an illness later diagnosed as COVID-19. She died before midnight.

"It's our brothers, our sisters. It's people we know," Markel said. "And if you don't have that human factor right in your face, it's very easy to make it abstract."

Even at 1 million — greater than the population of Jerusalem or Austin, Texas, more than four times the number killed in the 2004 earthquake and tsunami in the Indian Ocean — the toll is almost certainly a vast undercount.

Many deaths were probably missed because of insufficient testing and inconsistent reporting, and some suspect concealment by countries like Russia and Brazil.

And the number continues to mount. Nearly 5,000 deaths are reported each day on average. Parts of Europe are getting hit by new outbreaks and experts fear a second wave may await the U.S.

"I can understand why ... numbers are losing their power to shock, but I still think it's really important that we understand how big these numbers really are," said Mark Honigsbaum, the London-based author of "The Pandemic Century: One Hundred Years of Panic, Hysteria and Hubris."

Few people can testify to those numbers like the Rev. Mario Carminati, a priest in the northern Italian province of Bergamo, which was hit by one of Europe's first major outbreaks last spring. When the virus overwhelmed local cemeteries, Carminati opened his church to the dead, lining up 80 coffins in the center aisle. After an army convoy carted them to a crematory, another 80 arrived. Then 80 more.

"It was something completely unpredictable that arrived like a bolt of lightning in a clear sky ... and struck our reality," he said.

Eventually the crisis receded and the world's attention moved on. But the pandemic's grasp endures. In August, Carminati buried his nephew, 34-year-old Christian Persico.

"This thing should make us all reflect. The problem is that we think we're all immortal," Carminati said.

The virus first appeared late last year in patients hospitalized in the Chinese city of Wuhan. The first death was reported there on Jan. 11. By the time authorities locked down the city nearly two weeks later, millions of travelers had come and gone. China's government has come in for criticism that it did not do enough to alert other countries to the threat.

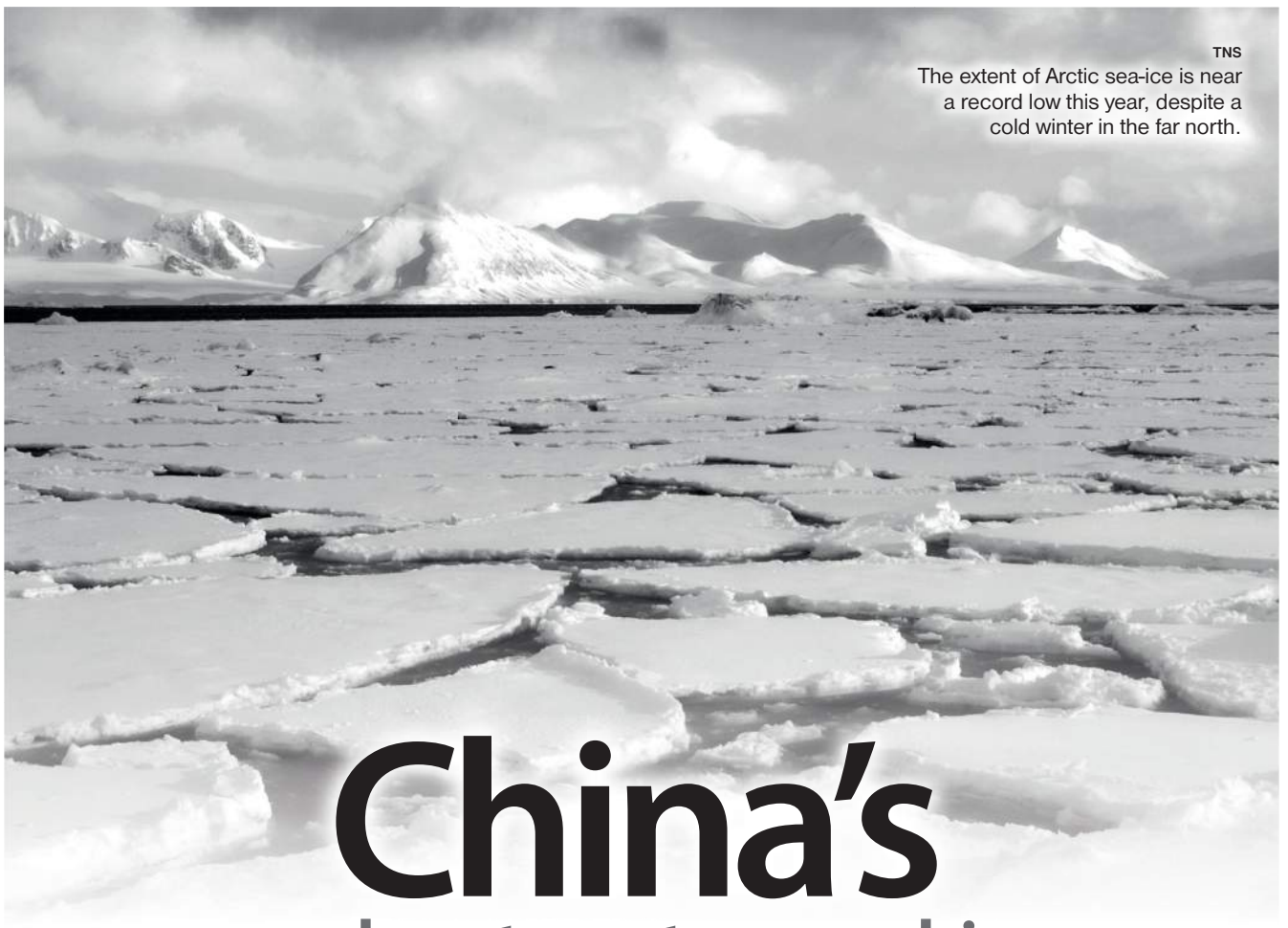
Government leaders in countries such as Germany, South Korea and New Zealand worked effectively to contain it. Others, like U.S. President Donald Trump and Brazil's Jair Bolsonaro, dismissed the severity of the threat and the guidance of scientists, even as hospitals filled with gravely ill patients.

Brazil has recorded the second most deaths after the U.S., with about 142,000. India is third and Mexico fourth, with more than 76,000.

Oscar Ortiz, an oil platform worker for Mexico's state-owned Petroleos Mexicanos, said he felt helpless while ill and quarantined this spring, as 14 of his coworkers died from the virus, three in a single week.

"It's very painful to see this and not be able to do anything," said Ortiz, whose company has reported more than 300 deaths in its ranks.

Environment



TNS
The extent of Arctic sea-ice is near a record low this year, despite a cold winter in the far north.

China's carbon target moves big economies into radical climate consensus

By AKSHAT RATHI
BLOOMBERG NEWS

LONDON—After a week of far-reaching climate promises measured over decades, four of the world's six largest economies have now proposed ending dates for their carbon emissions.

President Xi Jinping's surprise announcement at the annual United Nations climate meeting this week committed China to reaching carbon neutrality by 2060. That brings the third-biggest economy by nominal GDP into a loose but vitally important consensus with the second largest (EU), fourth largest (Japan) and fifth largest (California). The end of emissions has been set even if the target dates remain varied — and at least a generation into the future.

Every new country that joins this carbon-neutral group puts more pressure on holdouts to align their policies with global goals. Two of the biggest economies remain outside of the consensus: India, at No. 6, and the national U.S. economy that remains the largest by size and historical contribution to warming.

"We aim to have CO2 emissions peak before 2030 and achieve carbon neutrality before 2060," Xi declared by video conference last week at the U.N. General Assembly, without providing details on what neutrality will mean in practice. But the mere fact of the pledge by China keeps alive the chance that the world may be able to hit the most ambitious target set under the 2015 Paris climate agreement: holding warming below 1.5 degrees Celsius compared to preindustrial levels. Current global average is around 1 degree C of warming.

"If China's emissions didn't go to zero, then 1.5 would not have been an option," said Glen Peters, research director at the Center for International Climate Research. The fact remains that China, as the world's biggest emitter and energy consumer currently, exerts enormous pull on the prospects for limiting future warming. And falling short of the 1.5 degree C target by just half a degree would cost the world $20 trillion by 2100, according to an analysis published in the journal Nature.

For all of the economies now linked in aspirations to end emissions, reaching net zero will mean a fundamental rewiring that accelerates clean-energy investments and dials back fossil fuels. In China's case, sweeping reforms will have to be carried out across dozens of regions run by local governments that may not share the zeal for reaching the 2060 goal. Beijing has long struggled with implementing grand plans from the center in a continent-sized country of 1.4 billion people. Local officials often have more to gain by appeasing interest groups than listening to the national leaders, especially when those policies could affect local industries such as coal mining.

"Announcing a carbon neutrality target is just the first step on a long road," wrote analysts from Bloomberg NEF, in a note detailing the "arduous" and "challenging" route ahead. To reach this goal, China requires new technologies such as carbon-free hydrogen, BNEF concluded, "and it will need to make its economy much more efficient."

Implementation of long-range goals is going to be a challenge everywhere. California became one of the earliest large economies to set a carbon neutrality goal, resolving two years ago to reach net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2045. Recent wildfires that have devastated much of the Western U.S. injected a new level of urgency, and last week California Gov. Gavin Newsom issued an executive order banning the sale of new gasoline-fueled cars after 2035.

That decision makes California the first U.S. state to join the U.K., France, Canada and several other nations in putting an end date on the sale of internal combustion engine cars. It also marks a big global shift since California consumes about 1% of global oil production — roughly 1 million barrels per day. Even after years of policy incentives to encourage the sale of zero-emission vehicles, however, less than 8% of cars registered in the state are electric.

Just how California will bring about this 15-year shift away from gasoline cars and what opposition it might face from the federal government remains unspecified, but the state is large enough to be a significant trendsetter for the U.S. as a whole.

There are questions, too, for how the EU will fulfill its proposal to reach net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 in March, then set out an even more ambitious goal earlier this month to cut its emissions 55% by 2030. The bloc is already behind on an earlier goal to cut emissions 40% compared to 1990 levels by the same end date, so this new benchmark represents a renewed commitment to making deep, drastic changes quickly.

Over the summer, meanwhile, EU heads of state approved the world's greenest stimulus plan to date, promising to pour more than 500 billion euros ($580 billion) into measures that will help fight global warming. The money will go toward everything from scaling up green hydrogen to making agriculture more sustainable.

The scale of China's undertaking will be immense, since the nation alone accounted for 28% of the global greenhouse gas total in 2019. Simply reducing the share of fossil fuels in its energy mix from 85% today to less than 25% would require $180 billion of investment each year through 2050, according to Sanford C. Bernstein & Co. Similar investments will be required in everything from electric vehicle production and infrastructure to cleaning up industrial processes such as cement- and steel-making, which require enormous amounts of energy that can only be supplied reliably by fossil fuels right now.

The impact from China's decisions will be huge. Even if the rest of the world's nations proceed with their current climate policies, China going carbon neutral by 2060 will lower global-warming projections by as much as 0.3 degrees Celsius. That's the biggest single reduction ever estimated as the result of a policy change, according to Climate Action Tracker.

The possibility of monumental policy swings looms over the climate debate. While the U.S. has retrenched significantly on climate policy under President Donald Trump, cheap natural gas and cheaper renewable energy have largely kept the country's emissions in check. Should Democratic presidential nominee Joe Biden defeat Trump in November's election, the global picture would again change dramatically.

Yet even without federal engagement on climate, at the state level leaders like California's Newsom have moved in the opposite direction to Trump. In states such as Washington and New York there are now net-zero goals, and major U.S.-based companies have also made commitments to zero-out emissions. Even America's utility behemoths are pledging to go carbon neutral, most recently New Orleans-based Entergy Corp., which did so last week.

"It's like personal actions but on steroids," said Noah Kaufman, a research scholar at Columbia University's Center on Global Energy Policy. "It's very directionally helpful, but it'll never be enough if you don't have the policies to back it up."

Biden has vowed to restore a national level of policy action, proposing a carbon-free electrical grid by 2035 and net-zero emissions no later than 2050. If Biden rejoins the Paris Agreement, which the U.S. is set to leave on Nov. 4, pressure will grow on other major emitters — most significantly India, the largest besides the U.S. with no stated net-zero target — to make similar commitments.

The U.N. framework allows developing countries to lower their emissions much later than developed countries, which bear much more of the blame for current atmospheric carbon levels. Though India isn't ready to set a net-zero emissions goal, it's shown a willingness to participate in the global conversation on emissions.

India "sees climate change as an area where, to put it simply, it can win points geopolitically," said Thomas Spencer at the Energy and Resources Institute, a think tank in India. Under Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India has been setting records for low-cost solar installations and become a role model in deploying energy efficiency measures, although it still doesn't have strong policies in place to electrify transport.

The next major U.N. climate meeting, set to be held in Glasgow, has already been postponed until 2021. Global leaders have tried to maintain momentum, and U.K. Prime Minister Boris Johnson called on Thursday for a virtual meeting this December to mark the fifth anniversary of the Paris Agreement. It would be the next big moment for countries to strengthen their commitments to reduce emissions.

This week also saw European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen call for the creation of a "high ambition coalition" that would include the EU and China, similar to a group assembled in 2015 to help reach a deal in Paris.

Most of these climate goals are audacious — and entirely voluntary. There's no guarantee that the promised reductions will come to pass. Still, the non-binding resolution created by the Paris climate agreement has fundamentally changed the conversation on climate action.

"That's the beauty of the Paris Agreement," said Spencer. "Part of its strength is its weakness as well. It appeals to so many different sectors, so many different levers of action and just sets the direction. It doesn't actually say you have to do it."

Once that direction is set, it often means ratcheting ambition up, not down. The British government is behind on its short-term emissions targets, for instance, and it is now considering bringing forward its ban on the sale of gasoline and diesel cars to 2030.

That means those who assume China's 2060 target is too late to keep the hope for 1.5 degrees C alive may be in for a surprise. Peters of the Center for International Climate Research suggested it might be only the start: "I don't think this is the final offer from China, and then they walk away and don't budge for 40 years."

Life & Style

For moderator Chris Wallace, debate was runaway train

AP

Moderator Chris Wallace of Fox News speaks as President Donald Trump and Democratic presidential candidate former Vice President Joe Biden participate in the first presidential debate Tuesday, Sept. 29, 2020, at Case Western University and Cleveland Clinic, in Cleveland.

NEW YORK (AP)—For much of the opening presidential debate, moderator Chris Wallace looked like a man trying to stop a runaway train with his bare hands.

The contest between President Donald Trump and Vice President Joe Biden was chaotic from start to finish. With interruptions and interjections, Trump tried to throw his Democratic opponent off stride. Pleas, increasingly frustrated and loud, were the only tools Wallace had at his disposal to try to maintain control.

"Please let him speak, Mr. President," Wallace tried more than once. The Fox News host pointed out he was the moderator, that he was the one to ask questions, that he hated to raise his voice but would. He reminded the president that his campaign had agreed to the ground rules.

For much of the time, it was futile.

"Chris Wallace's debate performance tonight is a great reminder that kindergarten teachers are underpaid," "The Daily Show" host Trevor Noah tweeted in the midst of the 90-minute encounter.

There was near unanimous disgust from commentators after the debate was over. Some, like CNN's Wolf Blitzer, wondered openly if the two remaining scheduled debates between the two men would actually happen. CBS ran an instant poll of viewers and found 69% considered it annoying and just 17% found it informative.

Twitter was ablaze with complaints that Wallace had lost control, while some defenders wondered whether there was really anything he could do.

"Chris Wallace did not act as a moderator, Donald Trump did not act as a debater," said MSNBC host Nicolle Wallace—no relation. "Donald Trump was the abuser and Chris Wallace was among the abused."

Wallace tried to ask pointed questions to both men. He effectively asked Trump three times whether he accepted climate change, while also asking Biden whether his proposals to help the environment would hurt the economy. He asked Trump why his administration sought to end racial sensitivity training in government, and questioned Biden about whether he should be using his influence to stop violence in a city like Portland, Oregon.

Despite the preparation, Wallace sometimes seemed to give up. At one point he told Trump he was going to ask a question about race, "but if you want to answer something else, you can."

He would occasionally cut short answers or discussions that had a chance of being productive because he simply wanted to end the bickering and move on.

Wallace said before the debate that he would not take on a role of fact-checker and held to that. But that left both candidates accusing the other of lying several times and the viewer without any recourse to tell who was telling the truth.

"It's been an interesting hour and a half," he said at the end.

NBC News veteran Andrea Mitchell called the debate a disgrace. NBC's Chuck Todd called it a train wreck. CNN's Jake Tapper called it "a hot mess inside a dumpster fire inside a train wreck."

"Trump's strategy tonight was to interrupt, to try to steamroll not only his opponent but also the moderator who was unable to keep control of the two candidates," said CBS News' Norah O'Donnell. "I think the question we're all asking tonight is, 'Can we really have two more of these?'"

Fox News Channel's Brit Hume described Trump as a "bucking bronco." He said it was the type of performance that would appeal to the president's fans, but he didn't know whether it would expand his support.

Gabrielle Union, NBC settle dispute over racism allegations

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Gabrielle Union and NBC said Tuesday that they have settled their differences in their dispute over her firing as a judge on "America's Got Talent," which she said was retaliation for her complaints that the show tolerated racism on the set.

"We've reached an amicable resolution," Union and the network said in a joint statement. "NBC Entertainment appreciates the important concerns raised by Gabrielle Union and remains committed to ensuring an inclusive and supportive working environment where people of all backgrounds are treated with respect."

Both sides declined further comment, and would not give further details.

Union, known for her roles in the films "Bring It On" and "Bad Boys II," appeared on the talent showcase created by Simon Cowell for a season, until she and fellow first-year judge Julianne Hough weren't asked to return.

Union

Variety reported soon after that Union, who is Black, believed she was fired because she had asked NBC and the show's producers to respond to an environment that tolerated racist jokes and remarks from judges and producers.

Union gave detailed accounts of the issues in a complaint to the California Department of Fair Employment and Housing that she filed in June, saying she received criticism of her hair from producers that were rooted in racism.

"Union, a black woman, was singled out due to her physical appearance and discriminated against by NBC due to the fact that her hair did not fit within the white image that NBC apparently sought to convey to the audience," the complaint stated, adding that a network executive and a show producer "informed Union's manager that her hair was 'too wild' and that it needed to be 'toned down.'"

NBC said in May that outside investigators brought in by the network and producers found that Union's allegations had no basis and no bearing on the decision to drop her as a judge.

NBC said the investigation "found an overarching culture of diversity on the show."

Awkward online photos put in-laws on the outs

DEAR ABBY: I have been with my husband for 20 years, married for eight of them. He thinks his mother can do no wrong. She takes pictures of me when I least expect it, and then posts the worst ones on Facebook. She laughs and thinks it's funny, but I am really hurt by it.

To make it worse, his sister does the same to me now. They constantly have their phones pointed toward me, and when confronted, they deny taking pictures or insist all pictures have been deleted.

I have always supported my husband's relationship with his family, but I don't feel like they support us being together. I have deleted his mother as a friend on Facebook and no longer go to family functions. My husband agrees that what she's doing is wrong, but offers no support. His family prides themselves on class, but this is anything but classy.

CAUGHT OFF GUARD

DEAR CAUGHT: It isn't classy to willfully hurt others, as your MIL and SIL have been doing. Both appear to have a cruel streak, and this is their way of needling you.

What troubles me is that you have allowed them to drive you away from family functions, which I assume your husband is attending without you. Have another talk with him. Go to another family gathering, and when you see the cameras aimed at you, tell them to cut it out. Your spineless husband should back you up on it, tell them that it isn't funny, and if there are any shots of you on their FB pages, HE wants them deleted immediately.

DEAR ABBY: I'm in an eight-year relationship, and we share a 3-year-old child together. We talk about marriage, but truth be told, I'm having doubts. He has a wandering eye, which is a total turn-off for me.

For instance, when we go to a restaurant and the waitress walks up to assist us, as soon as she turns around, he automatically glues his eyes on her backside. I don't say anything about it, but it's so annoying. Should I say anything or just continue to pretend that I don't see?

BOTHERED IN LOUISIANA

DEAR BOTHERED: Many men ogle, but for most of them, it's only their eye that wanders. Because it bothers you so much you may not want to move the relationship forward, by all means speak up. Pretending not to notice has changed nothing. After eight years of silence, I think it's time to set the father of your child straight, don't you?

DEAR ABBY: I have wonderful neighbors. They own a fish market in Chinatown. Since they moved in three years ago, he has given me fish almost every other week. My dilemma is, he speaks almost no English, and she speaks only broken English. Some of the fish he gives me I don't use, so I offer it to another neighbor or throw it out.

I would like to tell him which fish I prefer, but don't want to seem ungrateful or like it's shopping from home. Any suggestions on how to handle this?

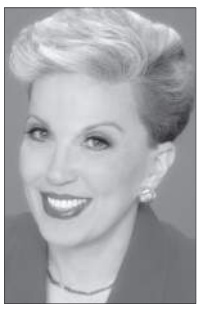
GRATEFUL IN NEW YORK

DEAR GRATEFUL: You might "innocently" mention which fish you especially appreciate when he brings it to you, but other than that, I think you should be grateful for your neighbor's generosity and forget about "placing an order" for something you're not paying for. You should also make an effort to reciprocate in some way so the man and his wife are not doing all the giving.

Good advice for everyone – teens to seniors – is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

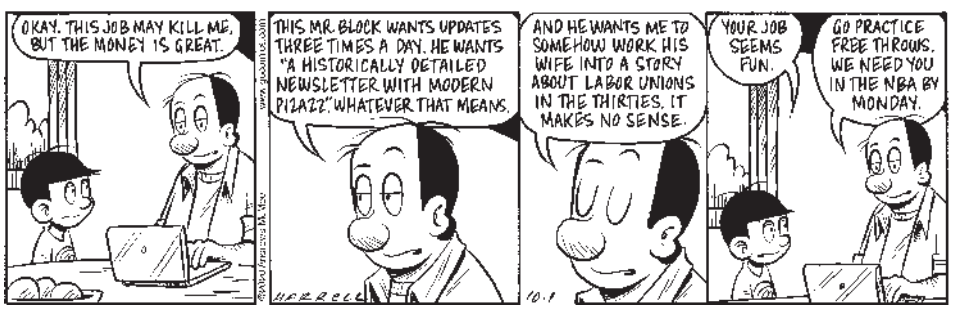
HI MOM! I'VE GOT MY OWN TV SHOW!
THAT'S NICE.
♪ HE'S CA-A-ALVIN.! AMAZING, GREAT CA-A-ALVIN! OH, HE'S THE ONE THAT YOU'D LIKE TO MEET! HE'S THE ONE WHO JUST CAN'T BE BEAT! HE'S CA-A-ALVIN.! LA DA TA DA DAAAAA! ♪
THANK YOU! THANK YOU! BOY, WHAT AN AUDIENCE! THANK YOU! PLEASE! HA HA! NO, REALLY, SIT DOWN! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!
I'M CHANGING THE CHANNEL, OK?
SORRY, I'M ON ALL THE NETWORKS.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

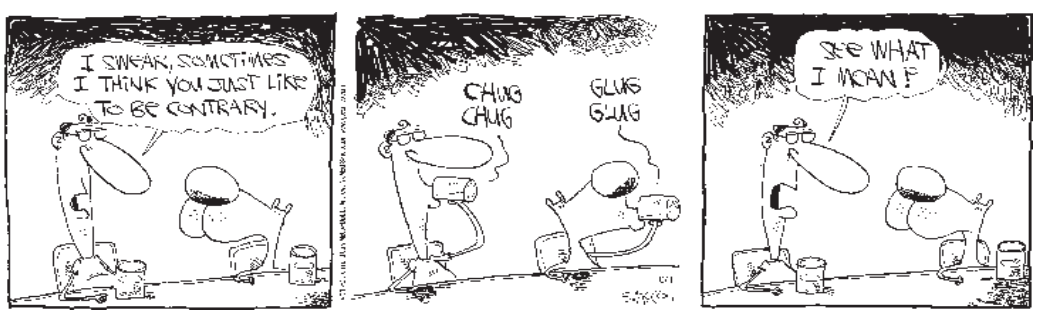
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


OKAY. THIS JOB MAY KILL ME, BUT THE MONEY IS GREAT.
THIS MR. BLOCK WANTS UPDATES THREE TIMES A DAY. HE WANTS "A HISTORICALLY DETAILED NEWSLETTER WITH MODERN PIZAZZ". WHATEVER THAT MEANS.
AND HE WANTS ME TO SOMEHOW WORK HIS WIFE INTO A STORY ABOUT LABOR UNIONS IN THE THIRTIES. IT MAKES NO SENSE.
YOUR JOB SEEMS FUN.
GO PRACTICE FREE THROWS. WE NEED YOU IN THE NBA BY MONDAY.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

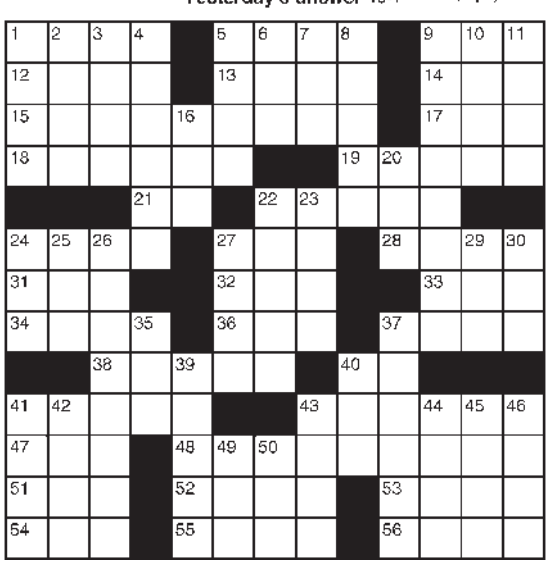
ACROSS
1 Barn birds
5 Bearded beast
9 Bearded beast
12 Actress Perlman
13 The L.A. Philharmonic, e.g.
14 Dawn goddess
15 1995 film based on an Elmore Leonard novel
17 Highland hat
18 Summer, for one
19 Coffee flavor
21 Alien, for short
22 Painter El —
24 Harbor vessels
27 Swing to and —
28 IRS agent
31 Hydrocarbon suffix
32 Sass
33 Calendar abbr.
34 Automatons, for short
36 Mimic
37 "Woman in Gold" actor Reynolds
38 Cymbals' kin
40 Egyptian sun god
41 Garlicky mayo
43 Carrying, as a shopping bag
47 — Lanka
48 Improve
51 Light brown
52 Yale students
53 Zhivago's love
54 Director Lee
55 Air show stunt
56 Concludes

DOWN
1 PTA and NEA, e.g.
2 Roller coaster cry
3 "— Smile Be Your Umbrella"
4 Mouths off to
5 Thug
6 Hockey's Bobby
7 Performance
8 Minty herb
9 Snuggle up in an easy chair, say
10 Ark builder
11 Sch. at West Point
16 Very popular
20 Halloween mo.
22 Clenches
23 Lariat
24 Bar bill
25 First numero
26 "Move it!"
27 Banner
29 Altar constellation
30 Diarist Anaïs
35 Scale member
37 Baby's toy
39 Bruce of the Sherlock Holmes films
40 Caviar
41 "The Thin Man" dog
42 Tehran's country
43 Recipe meas.
44 Call — evening
45 Dweeb
46 Mardi —
49 "Evil Woman" gp.
50 Uncle (Sp.)

Solution time: 24 mins.

A	L	I	T		A	L	L		S	M	C	C
L	O	G	O		N	E	A		P	O	M	P
M	O	O	N	B	E	A	M		R	O	N	A
A	⁻	P	I	L	M		P	P	E	C	I	S
			S	P	O		S	H	A	H		
P	A	M		N	N	E		O	D	E	O	N
T	H	O	U		E	S	P		S	P	A	S
A	S	O	N	G		T	R	A		S	T	A
		S	K	I	T		O	L	D			
A	V	E	N	G	E		M	I	A	S	M	A
M	O	J	O		M	O	O	D	R	I	N	G
E	⁻	A	T		P	I	T		T	P	O	T
S	E	W	S		O	L	E		S	I	P	S

Yesterday's answer 10-1



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Brie Larson, 31; Zach Galifianakis, 51; Esai Morales, 58; Julie Andrews, 85.

Happy Birthday: Mend what has fallen apart this year, and you will be able to move forward without regret or hesitation. Show compassion, but don't let anyone take advantage of your kindness or generosity. Bring about changes at home that will give you the freedom to do things your way. Let experience and intellect lead the way. Personal gain is within reach. Your numbers are 8, 19, 22, 25, 34, 42, 46.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Uncertainty will revolve around your work, position and future status. Stay calm, and work hard to show how valuable and resourceful you are. Benefits will come your way. Strive for personal gain, physical fitness and romance, and you will excel. ✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Before you make a change, cover every angle and detail that's required for you to be successful. Taking physical action to ensure you have everything in place will eliminate an error. Don't count on others to take care of your responsibilities. ✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Look for help in familiar places. Reach out to those who are like-minded and have never let you down in the past. Don't be shortsighted when it comes to partnerships. An unexpected change will take you by surprise. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Consider doing things differently if you want to bypass someone who has it in for you. Arguing will make you look bad, but going above and beyond the call of duty and coming up with a workable solution will pay off. ✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Deal with emotional issues that surface between you and a friend, relative or peer. Ignoring problems will lead to uncertainty and an inability to take advantage of an opportunity that comes your way. Self-improvement, personal growth and romance are featured. ✪✪✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Voice your opinion, bring about change and handle financial, health and legal matters yourself. Stay in control, take the initiative and live life your way. Someone older or younger will offer insight regarding how to structure your next move. ✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Tie up loose ends without making a fuss. Do what you have to do, and be transparent regarding your intentions. Clear the air, and put your plans in motion. Romance is on the rise, and physical improvements will fetch compliments. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* An opportunity will require you to make a lifestyle change. Don't let uncertainty stop you from moving forward with your plans. Develop a strategy, and put your ideas in motion. Tidy up loose ends, and forge into the future. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Spend time with the people who bring out the best in you. Challenge yourself physically, and strive to take better care of yourself. Refuse to let anyone entice you to indulge or overspend. Romance will improve a meaningful relationship. ✪✪✪✪✪

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

			7					
		3	8		2			
	6	1	5		4	9		
			3		6	7		
1								3
	8	5		6				
	2	9			5	7	3	
		4			6	1		
			8					

Difficulty Level ★★★ 10/01

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

1	2	3	9	4	8	5	6	7
7	4	6	5	2	3	1	9	8
9	5	8	6	7	1	4	2	3
4	7	5	1	6	2	8	3	9
8	9	2	3	5	7	6	1	4
6	3	1	4	8	9	2	7	5
2	8	4	7	3	6	9	5	1
3	6	9	8	1	5	7	4	2
5	1	7	2	9	4	3	8	6

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EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Don't get into a senseless argument with someone you love. Put your energy into positive changes that will make your life more convenient at home and work. A money matter will surface if you share expenses with someone who is extravagant. ✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* You'll discover a way to make extra cash using one of your talents. A partnership with someone will help you get your plan up and running. Romance is on the rise and will improve your relationship and lifestyle. ✪✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Look for a unique way to earn money, and you will change the way you live. Invest more time in honing your skills and putting your plan in motion. Someone you've collaborated with in the past will have something to offer. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are aggressive, focused and active. You are convincing and playful.

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

HAVING FUN IN MUD **Solution: 7 letters**

N	W	M	E	S	S	Y	D	R	E	G	S	O	A	G
E	O	U	Y	K	C	I	T	S	W	R	O	D	N	N
D	R	I	H	S	U	L	S	D	C	Z	I	I	G	I
R	M	V	T	Q	S	H	O	V	E	L	W	H	E	K
A	E	U	I	C	D	N	A	S	O	O	U	E	L	A
G	R	L	S	S	U	T	C	S	R	M	Ⓣ	M	S	B
N	Y	L	R	T	C	R	I	H	U	Ⓛ	O	I	P	A
I	W	A	S	I	U	O	T	S	Ⓘ	E	E	R	I	T
P	E	A	R	T	H	C	U	Ⓢ	O	L	S	G	E	H
M	D	S	L	W	O	W	K	S	N	P	D	O	S	S
U	I	T	E	U	L	K	C	U	G	O	E	R	I	S
J	L	T	N	L	G	R	O	U	N	D	C	D	E	L
E	S	T	O	N	E	S	R	S	K	C	I	R	B	N
K	R	A	P	S	T	U	O	R	G	N	I	C	A	R
Y	M	L	E	V	A	R	G	N	I	T	N	I	A	P

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Alluvium, Angels, Baking, Baths, Bricks, Children, Clump, Construction, Country, Deposit, Donuts, Dregs, Earth, Garden, Gravel, Grime, Ground, Grouts, Guck, Humus, Jumping, Lawn, Liquid, Loam, Messy, Ooze, Painting, Park, Pies, Racing, Rock, Sand, Shovel, Silt, Slide, Slush, Soil, Solid, Stew, Sticky, Stones, Stuck, Throwing, Tires, Toes, Viscous, Whirl, Wormery

Yesterday's Answer: Jackets

The NEW **Treasury 41** can be purchased online at www.WonderWordBooks.com, or call 1-800-642-6480.

LeBron, Heat together again in NBA Finals

LAKE BUENA VISTA, Fla. (AP)—LeBron James wants to beat the Miami Heat. The Miami Heat want to beat LeBron James.

These shouldn't be surprising notions to anyone, not with a title at stake.

Those looking for more acrimony than that, well, they may be disappointed.

The NBA Finals start Wednesday night and the James vs. Miami story line is shaping up as little more than a meeting of the mutual admiration society, albeit with a championship at stake. James is looking to bring the Los Angeles Lakers back to basketball's mountaintop for the first time since 2010 and the Heat are looking to cap a surprising season with their fourth crown.

"I'm here for one reason and one reason only, and that's to compete for a championship," James said on the eve of Game 1 of his 10th finals, where he'll be seeking ring No. 4.

James was asked any number of different ways Tuesday about his time in Miami, his thoughts on coach Erik Spoelstra, his opinion of Heat President Pat Riley. He never took the bait, speaking only with fondness for the four years he spent in Miami and the two titles the Heat won during that stay.

"Being a part of that culture allowed me to grow, allowed me to see what it takes to not only compete for a championship but also to win a championship," James said. "So, it definitely put me in a position where I knew what it took. I saw what it took. But also, I fit that culture as well because of how hard I worked. It was a perfect match for those four years."

James left Miami and the finals have been an almost-annual stop since; this is his fifth appearance in the title round in the six seasons that followed his Heat tenure. It's the first time Miami has been back since he left. During that time, the Heat did some rebuilding a couple of times and used 60 different players in those six seasons. Miami also endured the departure, return and then retirement of Dwyane Wade and the premature end of Chris Bosh's career for health reasons.

Spoelstra is designing a game plan with hopes of keeping James in some sort of check, of course. That doesn't mean he didn't speak with reverence when asked about the Lakers' best player.

"I just think it is a true testament to his greatness to be able to sustain this type of success year in, year out," Spoelstra said. "Different uniforms, new players and new teams going after him. It's a real testament to that commitment. He's seen everything. At this point in his career, it's just about winning. And his ability to do what he does at his age is incredibly uncommon. But there's a lot of work that goes on behind the scenes to be able to maintain that."

AP

In this Dec. 13, 2019 file photo, Los Angeles Lakers forward LeBron James (23) takes a shot against Miami Heat Bam Adebayo (13) during the first half of an NBA game in Miami.

The feeling is mutual.

James, on Spoelstra: "I'm not going to sit up here and act like I don't know what Spo is all about, because he's damned good, if not great."

James, on Riley: "This league is not the same without Riles. He's a great guy, great motivator, someone that just knows what it takes to win."

No shade thrown there.

Both teams haven't endured much trouble in the bubble: The Heat and Lakers have each gone 12-3 in the playoffs. The Heat are the first No. 5 seed to make the finals and weren't exactly surprised to see that James is the one standing between them and the Larry O'Brien Trophy.

"It's been like this for a very long time. If you want to win, you're going to have to go through a LeBron James-led team," said Heat forward Jimmy Butler, who'll be going to his first finals in his first Miami season. "At the end of the day, that's what it normally comes down to. ... You're going to get the same test over and over again until you pass, and that test is LeBron James."

Lakers star Anthony Davis is in the finals for the first time, so he'll likely be dealing with a bit of nerves on Wednesday night. Butler acknowledged he'd be doing the same as well.

The Lakers are comfortably favored. Davis isn't expecting it to be easy.

"Miami is a special team," Davis said. "They're a team who a lot of people thought they shouldn't be here, but they're a team who fights. They're a team who's tough. They make big-time plays, got big-time players on their team, guys who are in their first year, second years who are playing huge for them right now with a lot of confidence."

Get past the James vs. Heat notions, and the series has more to offer.

Davis will butt heads with Miami's rising star Bam Adebayo. There will be times when veteran point guards—Rajon Rondo for the Lakers, Goran Dragic for the Heat—match up as well. Miami has the young shooters in Tyler Herro and Duncan Robinson; the Lakers have veterans like JaVale McGee and Dwight Howard ready to work down low.

Butler reiterates Heat 'not underdogs'

FLORIDA—Jimmy Butler knows not many expected his Miami Heat to reach the NBA Finals. And not many will take them against the Los Angeles Lakers when that series gets underway on Wednesday night.

But he doesn't like to think of his team as the underdogs and explained in a media conference what he does see the Heat as ahead of Game 1.

"A really good team. That's it. A really good team," Butler said. "I'm not gonna say that we're any better than anybody else, but I just don't think that we're underdogs. I don't. So what that nobody picked us to be here. That's OK. Pretty sure nobody's picking us to win, either. That's OK. But we understand that. We embrace that. Because at the end of the day, we truly don't care. We're just going to come out here and compete, play together like we always have and see where we end up. But at the end of the day, we're going to do this our way, the Miami Heat way. That way's worked for us all year long."

The Heat, led by Butler and center Bam Adebayo, already closed out the Eastern favorite Milwaukee Bucks in the Eastern Conference semifinals. Then, they dispelled the Boston Celtics to get back to their first NBA Finals since 2014.

Ahead of the Eastern Conference finals, Butler said the team doesn't use the word "underdog."

"We don't really use 'underdog,'" Butler said. "We may say that we have a chip on our shoulder, but I don't think that we're the underdog. I think that we're a really good team. We play together. Everybody knows their role. We just compete.

"I think we're supposed to be here. That's how we think of it. To me, to us, that's all that matters. We're not underdogs. We're competitors."

Now they're up against LeBron James making his 10th Finals appearance and a Lakers franchise that hasn't won the title since 2010 when Kobe Bryant was playing. Butler said during the media conference that James is "still at the top of his game at 35" years old and is dominating.

But, he said, "if anyone is up to that task, the Miami Heat are.

Rivalry runs deep

The uber-competitive Pat Riley that Magic Johnson knows from winning four championships when Riley was the coach of the Showtime Lakers in the 1980s is the same man who helped rebuild the Miami Heat into a contender for the 2020 NBA title.

The driven Riley that Johnson knows, who became one of the best executives in the NBA, winning two championships with LeBron James when he called Miami home from 2010 to 2014, is the same Riley who's pulling for the Heat to defeat James in the NBA Finals.

"Pat is a competitor, so he wants to win," Johnson said by phone. "I think now even more so because you got the Lakers team he used to coach and you got LeBron, a guy you won two championships with in Miami. But we have to remember that by nature he's such a competitive guy. Even if it wasn't us, he would want to win so bad."

Johnson, who recruited James to win a title while he was the Lakers' president of basketball operations for a little more than two years, wants to see James realize the vision the two shared. He also yearns to see owner Jeanie Buss follow in the giant footsteps of her late dad, Jerry Buss, and bring home a championship.

And, of course, to do it in honor of Kobe Bryant after the Lakers legend's stunning death this year.

"I want it for Jeanie because I want her to make her father proud, make the fans proud, herself proud as one of the first women in sports to win a title," Johnson said. "And then LeBron. For him to say, 'Hey Earvin, I'm taking this leap of faith that you guys are going to do what you say you are going to do to put the proper pieces around.' I want it for him too because I think that he has gotten us back to where we belong as an organization and fans can be proud of the things that he's promised, to get us here to the championship, and let's see if he can deliver the championship."

"They can make Dr. Buss happy in heaven and make Kobe happy in heaven too. They are probably sitting down trading notes right now—and Chick Hearn is in the middle of it as well," Johnson added. ***(AP/NBC)***

Judge, Yankees pound Indians in opener

CLEVELAND (AP)— On a night for debates, Aaron Judge, Gerrit Cole and the New York Yankees made quite an opening statement.

Shane Bieber had no rebuttal.

Judge smashed a tone-setting, two-run homer on Bieber's fourth pitch, Cole struck out 13 in his New York playoff debut and the Yankees opened their AL wild-card series with a resounding 12-3 win over the Cleveland Indians on Tuesday.

Just a few miles from where President Donald Trump and campaign opponent Joe Biden made their cases to the nation in their presidential debate, the Yankees teed off against Bieber, who was baseball's best pitcher during the condensed regular season but ineffective in his playoff debut.

Judge and the rest of New York's hitters hadn't faced Bieber in 2020, but they were well prepared and took some meaty cuts against the 25-year-old ace, who gave up season highs in runs (seven) and hits (nine) over 4 2/3 innings -- his shortest stint since June 9 last season against the Yankees.

"The first inning didn't go as planned," Bieber said. "I wish I would have been with my off-speed stuff in the zone, and challenged those guys a little more. I forced myself into some bad situations and some bad counts on top of not having my best stuff and making mistakes.

"No excuses. It was not good."

AP

New York Yankees' Aaron Judge (99) swings in the third inning of Game 1 of an American League wild-card baseball series against the Cleveland Indians, Tuesday, Sept. 29, 2020, in Cleveland.

The best-of-three series continues Wednesday night with Carlos Carrasco trying to save Cleveland's season against Masahiro Tanaka.

When Bieber's final pitch clanged loudly off the empty left-field bleachers on a two-run homer by Gleyber Torres in the fifth, the Yankees were up 7-2 and had delivered a boisterous postseason message to the rest of baseball: Don't forget us.

"We scored quite a few runs," said Brett Gardner, who hit a two-run homer in the seventh and drove in three. "I don't think you ever expect that against a pitcher the caliber of Shane Bieber. Hopefully that's a sign of more good things to come."

After giving up Torres' homer, Bieber handed the ball to acting Indians manager Sandy Alomar Jr. and walked slowly toward Cleveland's dugout, seemingly carrying all of the city's hopes for a long run with him. The Indians have lost seven straight playoff games.

Staked to an early lead on Judge's homer, Cole showed why the Yankees shelled out $324 million for him in the offseason. The right-hander gave up two runs—including Josh Naylor's homer -- and six hits without a walk in seven innings.

Naylor, who came over in the deadline trade from San Diego, went 4 for 4 and became the first player with three extra-base hits in his postseason debut.

Cole's strikeouts were the second-most by a New York pitcher in postseason history. Roger Clemens fanned 15 in Game 4 of the 2000 ALCS. Cole also became the first pitcher to strike out at least 12 in three postseason games.

"We needed to set the tone for the series," Cole said. "I'm obviously very thankful and humbled to be able to take the ball and be in this position. To be able to deliver feels really good."

Giancarlo Stanton added a solo shot in the ninth for the Yankees, who didn't even have to warm up their top relievers -- keeping Aroldis Chapman, Zack Britton and Adam Ottavino fresh for Game 2.

White Sox 4, Athletics 1

Lucas Giolito dazzled in his postseason debut, stymieing the Oakland Athletics through six perfect innings and sending the Chicago White Sox to a victory in the opener of their best-of-three wild-card series.

Giolito (1-0), who pitched a no-hitter against Pittsburgh on Aug. 25, didn't allow a baserunner to the AL West champions until Tommy La Stella's single up the middle to start the seventh. Giolito gave up one run on two hits over seven innings, struck out eight and walked one before giving way to Evan Marshall after a stellar 100-pitch outing.

Giolito got plenty of support: Jose Abreu hit a two-run homer and Adam Engel also connected for Chicago against Jesus Luzardo (0-1). Yasmani Grandal homered in the eighth.

Alex Colome, Chicago's third reliever, worked the ninth for a save in the 2-hour, 53-minute game.

Now, Oakland must win Game 2 on Wednesday at home to avoid another early playoff exit.

Astros 4, Twins 1

Jose Altuve drew a bases-loaded walk to force in the go-ahead run in the ninth inning after a two-out error by shortstop Jorge Polanco, and Houston beat Minnesota to open their AL playoff series and stretch the Twins' all-time record postseason losing streak to 17 games.

Manager Dusty Baker's Astros became the first team in major league history to win a game after reaching the postseason with a losing record. Game 2 in the best-of-three wild-card matchup is Wednesday at Target Field.

Michael Brantley tacked on a two-run single in the ninth after Sergio Romo issued a full-count walk to the 5-foot-6 Altuve, the 2017 AL MVP who had a quiet season at the plate.

Framber Valdez, who made 10 regular-season starts for the Astros, pitched five scoreless innings in relief of Zack Greinke for the victory.

Rays 3, Blue Jays 1

Blake Snell took a no-hitter into the sixth inning and top-seeded Tampa Bay opened the playoffs with a win over Toronto.

Manuel Margot hit a two-run homer and Randy Arozarena tripled and scored on a wild pitch to give Snell and a dominant Rays bullpen all the offensive support needed to begin the best-of-three matchup.

The AL East champion Rays will try to advance Wednesday in Game 2 at Tropicana Field.

Snell allowed just two baserunners until Alejandro Kirk singled leading off the sixth. The 2018 AL Cy Young Award winner permitted one hit and struck out nine—tying a club postseason record—in 5 2/3 innings.

Titans have NFL's 1st COVID-19 outbreak

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)— The Tennessee Titans won't be back inside their building until Saturday at the earliest because of eight positive tests for the coronavirus, the first outbreak to hit the NFL as it tries to play a full schedule amid the pandemic.

Tennessee is scheduled to host Pittsburgh in a matchup of two of the league's seven remaining undefeated teams on Sunday, and Steelers coach Mike Tomlin said his team has been "given a mandate" to prepare as if the game will be played on time —even if the Titans are unable to practice.

"We're going to trust the medical experts," Tomlin said. "If they deem it safe for us to proceed, we're going to go down there with the intention of playing and playing to win."

Tennessee suspended in-person activities through Friday after the NFL said three Titans players and five personnel tested positive for the coronavirus. The NFL had played three weeks without a COVID-19 outbreak. Now, the Titans will become the first significant in-season test of the league's virus protocols.

The Minnesota Vikings also suspended in-person activities Tuesday following the Titans' test results. The Titans beat the Vikings 31-30 in Minneapolis last weekend.

"Both clubs are working closely with the NFL and the (players union), including our infectious disease experts, to evaluate close contacts, perform additional testing and monitor developments," the league said in a statement.

The Titans placed a pair of key players, defensive captain and lineman DaQuan Jones and long snapper Beau Brinkley, on the reserve/COVID-19 list later Tuesday.

The Vikings released a statement saying they had not received any positive results from their testing after Sunday's game and they followed NFL protocol by closing their facility immediately. The Minnesota complex will remain closed at least through Wednesday.

Minnesota is scheduled to visit Houston (0-3) on Sunday.

Raiders players without masks at event

Several Las Vegas Raiders players attended a charity event held by teammate Darren Waller that violated Nevada rules for the coronavirus pandemic and might have broken NFL regulations.

The Darren Waller Foundation held a fundraising event at the DragonRidge Country Club in the Las Vegas suburb of Henderson on Monday night. The money being raised was intended to help young people overcome drug and alcohol addiction.

Players were seen on video without masks during the indoor event while talking and mingling with guests, who also weren't wearing masks.

The City of Henderson fined the country club $2,000 on Tuesday for four violations of the Nevada governor's COVID-19 emergency directives, including people not wearing masks and more than 50 people at the event. The club has 30 days to pay the fine or dispute it.

Among the players in attendance were quarterbacks Derek Carr and Nathan Peterman, tight ends Jason Witten, Foster Moreau and Derek Carrier, receiver Zay Jones, cornerback Nevin Lawson, and Waller.

Rules from the NFL and NFLPA limit what players are allowed to do away from team facilities this season to try to help prevent the spread of the coronavirus. Players are banned from attending any event that "violates local and state restrictions."

DQ forgotten, Djokovic eases past foe

PARIS (AP)—Novak Djokovic's backhand clipped the net and landed wide, so he shook his head. That was it.

Later, a too-soft drop shot found the white tape and bounced back on his own side, finally ceding a game in a dominant debut performance at the 2020 French Open. Djokovic simply bowed and walked to the sideline.

And when he flubbed yet another drop shot—he kept using them on the slow red clay during a 6-0, 6-3, 6-2 win over 80th-ranked Mikael Ymer—and got broken Tuesday, Djokovic pulled an extra tennis ball out of his pocket and merely gave it a gentle tap with his racket strings.

The ball landed right behind him, safely in the middle of the court.

Playing his first Grand Slam match since his U.S. Open disqualification for smacking a ball after dropping a game and accidentally striking a line judge in throat, Djokovic never really gave himself reason for histrionics or shouts of dismay or displays of anger. Sure, there was some eye-rolling and one sarcastic kiss directed at one of the few fans on hand under the roof at Court Philippe Chatrier.

But otherwise, what was there for Djokovic to be disturbed about?

"I just felt very suffocated out there. It's just corner, corner; very, very rarely miss. His position is unreal in the court," Ymer explained.

"You know how the snake kills its prey?" Ymer said, pantomiming a boa constrictor's attack by bringing his arms around and putting his hands together. "That's a little bit how I felt being out there."

Ymer said he didn't pay any attention to Djokovic's mood or energy.

And Djokovic, for his part, said that what happened in Flushing Meadows was of no concern to him, either, as he began his pursuit of a second title at Roland Garros and 18th Grand Slam trophy overall.

AP

Serbia's Novak Djokovic plays a shot against Sweden's Mikael Ymer in the first round match of the French Open tennis tournament at the Roland Garros stadium in Paris, France, Tuesday, Sept. 29, 2020.

"I have not had any traces of New York in my mind. I'm over it. Honestly forgot about it. I'm not thinking about it," the No. 1 seed said after improving to 32-1 in 2020, the only blemish being that fourth-round default this month.

"Winning a 6-love first set is the best possible way to start a Grand Slam," he said. "This is exactly what my intentions will be—trying to get off the blocks very strong, with a good intensity, obviously, because players in the early rounds have nothing to lose."

Maybe that's why 17-year-old Clara Tauson of Denmark was able to earn her first tour-level win by knocking off U.S. Open semifinalist and No. 21 seed Jennifer Brady 6-4, 3-6, 9-7.

Or why No. 19 Alison Riske and No. 26 Donna Vekic also lost.

With Dominic Thiem, the U.S. Open champion and two-time French Open runner-up, watching from the stands in a black winter coat, Djokovic broke Ymer nine times and ended up with a 32-12 edge in total winners.

And when Djokovic did have a rare misstep, dropping a service game to make it 2-all in the second set, he responded in a constructive way: improving his play.

Eighteen minutes and four near-perfect games later, the set belonged to him.

"The way he's playing," observed Australian Open champion Sofia Kenin, "he's unbeatable."

HOLD

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no decisions have been made yet as far as going ahead with interscholastic sports tournaments with the CNMI still in Community Vulnerability Level "Blue" or one step away from the desired level ("Green") with limitations set for business hours and in-person interactions.

Gross is asking for everyone's patience, as his department works with authorities in ensuring the safety of all involved in the program before kicking of any sports-related activities in schools.

"This is a difficult situation as we recognize the importance of sporting opportunities for our youth in relation to their social, emotional, and physical needs. That said, we are unwilling to put any of our kids in harm's way or lead to a situation that could spread COVID-19, should any community cases arise," the many-time CNMI national athlete said.

"For those students, parents, and community members that are literally starving for the resumption of sporting opportunities, please know that I understand and will work tirelessly to get things going as quickly as possible. In the meantime, continue exercising regularly to increase and maintain your cardiovascular strength and endurance while also using this time to refine individual skills necessary for your success in the sporting arena. Stay safe, stay focused, and stay healthy, CNMI," Gross added.

The last time the PSS held a competition was in mid-March this year with the staging of the playoff round of the 2019-2020 PSS Interscholastic Boys High School Basketball League and the finale of the 2019-2020 PSS Interscholastic High School Canoe Race Series.

When the CNMI government started implementing restrictions to public gathering last March 14, PSS called off the playoff round of the 2019-2020 PSS Interscholastic Boys Middle School Volleyball League, while the PSS /McDonald's All Schools Track and Field Championship was also canceled.

ACCESS

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tary School student Elijah Dela Cruz said.

Shuttle Time is Badminton World Federation's program which provides schools access to free resources, training, and equipment to support the teaching of enjoyable and safe badminton activities to students. AirBadminton, on the other hand, is the newest addition to BWF's programs, as it was introduced just last year. The outdoor sport can be played in hard, grass, and sand surfaces in parks, gardens, streets, playgrounds, and beaches, making it more accessible to players than the traditional badminton.

"I think with AirBadminton, we could encourage more players to try the sport because they can play in any open space. Children love to go outdoors and play and AirBadminton fits the activity they want every time they go out," said CNMI National Team member Janelle Pangilinan, who was among the facilitators of Shuttle Time.

"We are pleased to get a good number of participants today (yesterday). I know we could have more, but with the restrictions and for safety measures against COVID-19, we have to limit the number of kids," Pangilinan added.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Participants in the Shuttle Time perform warm-up drills.

Marian Quidato made it to the short list of the Shuttle Time participants and finds the sport challenging and exciting.

"I need to learn more about my footwork and how to swing the racket," Quidato said.

NMBA will reach out to more young players and visit schools to introduce Shuttle Time and AirBadminton once restrictions on large-group gatherings are lifted and it is safe to engage students in activities.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Participants in the Northern Marianas Badminton Association's Shuttle Time pose for a photo with organizers and facilitators of the program yesterday at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.

"We would like to thank Badminton Oceania and the Badminton World Federation for providing us the resources to hold Shuttle Time and AirBadminton. We look forward to our continued partnership with them, as NMBA works on building a sustainable program for our students and our youth and providing them with activities that promote health and wellness.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

CNMI National Team player Andreau Galvez demonstrates to students some footwork drills.

LeBron, Heat together again in NBA Finals

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Access to badminton made easier

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Participants in Northern Marianas Badminton Association's Shuttle Time gets ready to hit the AirShuttle during a session yesterday at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

CNMI National Team player Nate Guerrero, right, teaches Elijah Dela Cruz how to properly hold the racket during a Shuttle Time session yesterday at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Northern Marianas Badminton Association is bringing the sport closer to the community.

In a bid to make badminton more accessible to the public, especially the youth, NMBA held another session of Shuttle Time, utilizing the program to introduce AirBadminton—the outdoor version of the sport.

CNMI National Team members worked with nine young students at the Oleai Sports Complex Field yesterday, demonstrating warm-up drills before teaching them the basics of the sport, such as footwork, proper way of holding the racket and hitting the AirShuttle (the especially-designed shuttlecock for indoor badminton), and serving.

"I had fun, especially the activities we did before they taught us how badminton is played. I am happy that I came here to try and learn a new sport. Hopefully we can play it in our school," Oleai Elemen-

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Interscholastic competitions still on hold

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

In this 2018 file photo, students head out to the course during the All Schools Cross Country Championship held at the Saipan Country Club. Interscholastic competitions, such as cross country races, are still on hold due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Though the Public School System has started a new school year, interscholastic sports competition won't be happening anytime soon.

PSS Student Support Services Athletic Program director Nick Gross said that with restrictions and safety measures still in effect to combat the COVID-19 pandemic, they would like to focus for now on getting schools cleared for face-to-face classes and virtual instructions.

"Due to the vast majority of our students not attending face-to-face classes at campuses in the coming months, the PSS Athletic Program Department is working out ways to ensure equitable opportunities for all kids regarding sporting activities. However, the current guidelines regarding social distancing make this pretty tough to roll out. So, we have postponed the opening of athletic programs until November, at the earliest, pending the CNMI's pandemic condition as we slowly open up the school year," Gross said.

Initially, Gross has started dialogues with schools and coaches to discuss the programs that could be modified to work under these challenging times. Group sports were out of the equation, as mass gatherings, such as competitions, are discouraged, while cross country races were considered since they are held outdoors and are identified as "low risk" sports. However,

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